Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you conduct emergency drills at home?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Calming Fears
Barack Obama promised fresh ideas Thursday to calm America's financial meltdown.

NATION...Page 10

Dollar Inflow
The Philippines can still expect higher remittances from overseas Filipino workers before the year ends.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

New Find
A single manuscript page, long hidden in a provincial French library, has been verified as the work of Mozart.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

"Even if we win, we may still lose. The U.S. Congress is the most powerful body in the entire world right now. Are we willing to risk [a lawsuit] and lose in the process our friends?"
—Senate President Pete Reyes

Senate nixes funding lawsuit

After split debate, Senate OKs report on fed lawsuit

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

ROTA—After a debate that saw a deep split emerge among lawmakers here Thursday night, the CNMI Senate approved a joint report disapproving Gov. Benigno Fitial request for funds to block the pending federal takeover of local regulations on foreign labor with a lawsuit, calling instead for negotiations.

Passed on a vote of 5 to 4, the joint report says the lawsuit filed earlier this month in federal court against the Department of Home-

See SENATE on Page 4

House said to follow suit

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Benavente

The House of Representatives is poised to debate the proposal of a House and Senate committee to reject the governor's funding request for the lawsuit he filed against the U.S. government over the pending federal takeover of local immigration.

The Senate in a session Thursday

See HOUSE on Page 4

Senate confirms Ada, Celes, Inos

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

ROTA—Senate lawmakers in a session here Thursday night voted unanimously to confirm three of Gov. Benigno Fitial's appointees, including new chiefs at the Commerce and Community and Cultural Affairs departments and a new associate Superior Court judge.

Michael Ada—who took over

See CONFIRMS on Page 4

WET WEATHER JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A family of Japanese tourists spend their afternoon strolling around Garapan area despite the continuous rainshower yesterday.

2 ConCon members back monument plan. **PAGE 2**
Transmitter glitch knocks KRNM off air. PAGE 5

Local

2 ConCon members back monument plan

Two former members of the Constitutional Convention have called on lawmakers to support the proposal designating the CNMI's northernmost three islands as a marine monument.

Karl T. Reyes and Joaquin Tenorio wrote separate letters to the Legislature stating that the proposed marine monument is in line with the constitutional provision for the protection of the islands of Uracus, Maug, and Asuncion.

The Constitution requires that the three islands, as well as Guguan, be "maintained as uninhabited places and used only for preservation."

"We believed then, as I still do, that the highest and best use of the northern three islands is preservation of the flora and fauna," Tenorio said.

For his part, Reyes said, "I urge you to support the proposed Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. It will fulfill the original intent of our Constitution and benefit generations of Chamorros and Carolinians to come."

Both Reyes and Tenorio were members of the Constitutional Convention's Personal Rights and Natural Resources Committee, which had recommended that the islands should be set aside as nature reserves. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Judge finds sufficient charging info vs woman in illegal sponsorship case

MHS DONATION JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Marianas High School principal Karen Borja hands over a certificate of Appreciation to Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz for his valuable contribution and commitment in helping the school provide a safe and orderly environment for the students during a brief turnover ceremony at the school campus yesterday. Dela Cruz donated a Poulan riding mower, Spectrum paints, GE fluorescent lamps and other supplies such as toilet paper and trash bags.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has determined that the charging information filed against one of three accused of engaging in illegal sponsorship of 19 alien workers is sufficient.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ruled that in the case against Stacy N. Bautista, the government, through the Attorney General's Office, provided her with the offense charged as well as the facts supporting those charges.

Wiseman denied Bautista's motion for a bill of particulars in the information charging her with conspiracy to commit theft by deception.

Bill of particulars refers to list of written statements made by a party to a court proceeding, upon demand of another party in the case that seeks for more details of a claim or defense.

Citing a previous CNMI Supreme Court ruling, Wiseman said the government has satisfied its burden in the charging information because the information contained the language of the statutes allegedly violated, the date of the action, and the specific action that created liability.

The judge set a status conference in the case for Sept. 24, 2008 at 9am.

According to court records, Bautista, also known as Stacy Dela Cerna, was arrested on May 16, 2008. The government later charged her with conspiracy to commit theft by deception, theft by deception, entrepreneurship fraud, and document fraud.

Bautista filed a motion for a bill of particulars. She was accused of being involved in an immigration scheme where she and co-defendants would accept money from persons seeking an entry permit by promising to sponsor them for employment, but not requiring them to work pursuant to a labor contract.

Bautista, through assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, underscored the need for a bill of particulars because the information does not give a description of the charges that have been filed.

Hartig argued that merely tracking the language of the statute in the information fails to provide the defendant with any specificity as to the charges he must defend against.

Hartig further argued that because of this insufficiency they will be unable to effectively conduct pretrial investigation and interview witnesses.

The government, through assistant attorney general Katie Busenkell, asserted that the information is sufficient according to the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Busenkell also pointed out that the court should not order a bill of particulars because discovery in the present case has not yet been completed.

In denying the defendant's motion, Wiseman explained that a defendant may ask for a bill of particulars if he or she is given insufficient notice of the charges that have been filed against him or her.

The judge said the main purpose behind a bill of information is to provide the defendant notice of the charges that have been filed against him or her as well as listing the acts committed that provided the basis for such charges.

"If the Bill of Information does not tell the defendant what acts or crimes he committed then he may ask for a Bill of Particulars, and if the trial court deems it necessary may grant their issuance," Wiseman said.

However, the judge emphasized, a defendant has no unconditional right to obtain a bill of particulars.

A bill of particulars, he said, is not needed if the information itself provides sufficient details of the charges and the government provides full discovery to the defense.

Count IV of the information, he said, describes the actors, acts, time, date, statutes being violated, and actions that were taken to engender criminal liability.

Wiseman said count IV neither surprises nor places Bautista in double jeopardy.

He said the government has provided Bautista with sufficient notice of the charges to prepare an adequate defense and discovery will solve any lingering issues that could necessitate a bill of particulars.

Wiseman said the information is sufficient to put the defendant on notice and allow preparation of an adequate defense.

Bautista co-defendants are Elenita E. Camacho and Weena P. Dulay.

Immigration investigator Erwin Flores of the Attorney General's Office's Investigation Unit stated in his report that based on information provided by a "cooperating witness" corroborated by other evidence, beginning in May 2006 to March 2008, Bautista and Camacho executed nonresident worker contract applications to the Department of Labor and the Division of Immigration to employ 19 alien workers.

Flores said the applications were filed so these alien workers could acquire an immigration benefit through the sponsorship scheme.

Bautista, Camacho, and Dulay allegedly created and used commercial enterprises such as GEM Professional Service, WPD Accounting Service, and Rhen Tailoring Dress Shop for the purpose of charging money to employ those workers and allow them to remain in the CNMI.

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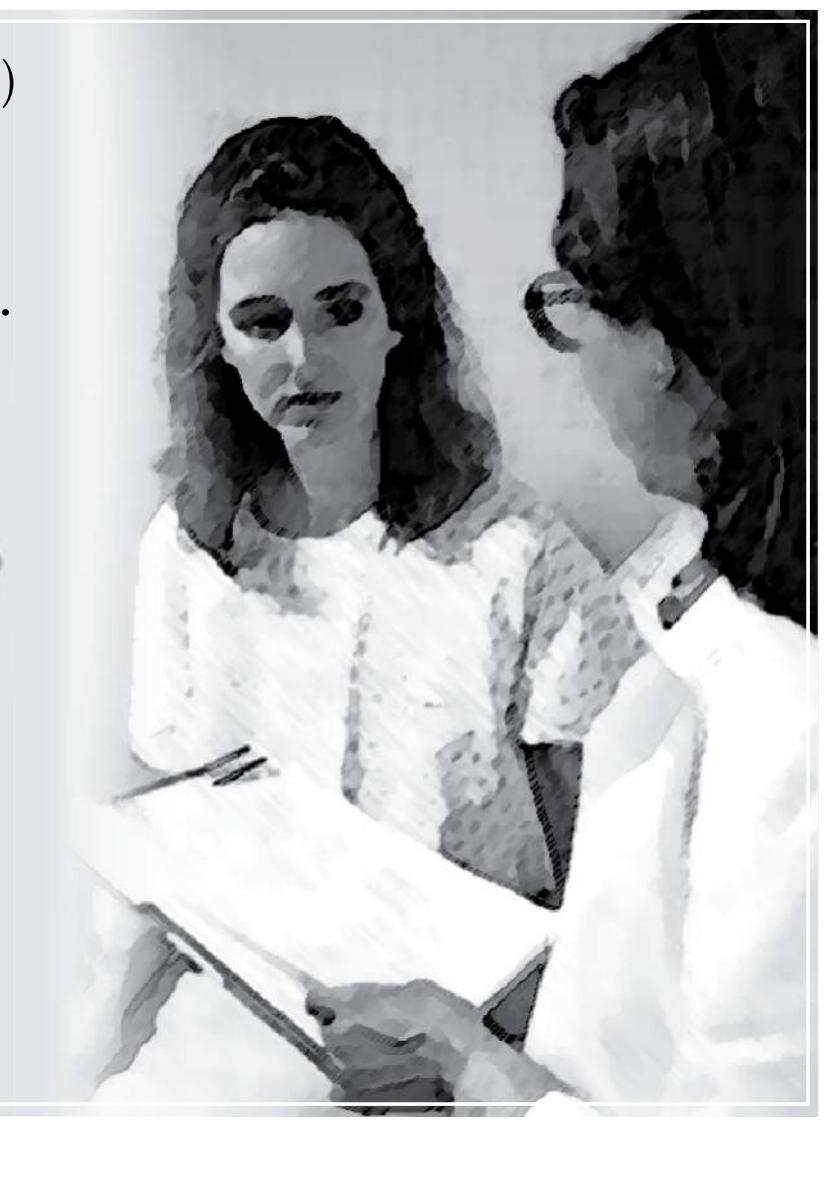


DCCA's Celes aims to bolster NAP service

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

ROTA—The newly confirmed Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Cecilia Celes, appears poised to begin an effort to bolster the services provided by federal food stamp offices on Tinian and Rota, a task Senate lawmakers urged her to pursue in a session here Thursday night.

As senators prepared to confirm Celes as DCCA's chief, the lawmakers noted that in a recent interview with staff at a federal Nutrition Assistance Program office, they learned that it can take far longer for applicants on Rota to receive approval for the food stamps they need than those on Saipan because they have to wait sometimes weeks for their requests to be processed. The issue raised serious concerns for some senators.

"For example, with babies, we cannot see them wait for a month because the interview [to process them] has to take place through someone coming from Saipan to screen these people," said Sen. Felix Mendiola (C-Rota). "I believe criteria, qualification criteria, should be identified. At the same time, perhaps maybe we should empower or delegate authority here so that it can be done here. If Saipan can process people in two days or three days, it should be so on Tinian and Rota."

In an interview after her unanimous confirmation, Celes voiced support for such an effort. One solution, she added, could be giving local food stamp office staff the training and authority they need to process applicants on their own.

Celes

"Clients can sometimes wait up to a month for food stamps," she said. "This is a critical and direct need. We're in hard economic times and we need to plan carefully how to provide those services. I think that by providing direct training to the personnel here, we can resolve a lot of those issues."

Also on Celes' agenda at DCCA, she added, are efforts to ensure stability within the department's management.

"The department has gone through many changes in leadership," she said.

CALLIGRAPHY CLASS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Kazuko Sondheim practices Japanese calligraphy inside the new Japanese Calligraphic Atelier Izumo Works located on the second floor of the ABC Store at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Hurricanes delay vaccine shipments

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hurricanes Gustav and Ike have delayed the arrival of some vaccinations to the Department of Public Health.

DPH Immunization Project coordinator Mariana Sablan said she was recently informed that the flu vaccine would not arrive by the middle of September, as originally scheduled.

"If it wasn't for Hurricane Ike, we'd have the vaccines," she said.

Sablan said the Centers for Disease Control is using a third-party distributor to deliver the medicine.

"We were told they have to wait until it's clear," she said.

People have been calling the Commonwealth Health Center asking about the status of the vaccine, but DPH must rely on the information provided by the distributor, she said. DPH continues to update the patients on the status of vaccines. As soon as the flu shipment arrives it will be ready for use, she added.

Flu vaccines are good for a one-year period, she said. DPH's last shipment expired June 30.

DPH received the chicken pox vaccine this week and hopes to receive the meningococcal vaccine this month, Sablan said. Under normal conditions vaccines can be shipped and delivered within a week.

Hurricane Gustav made landfall in the United States on Sept. 1, causing $15 billion worth of damage. Hurricane Ike made landfall in Galveston, Texas, on Sept. 13, and has caused at least $27 billion in damage.

Tiny Nauru struggles with cost of food

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The reliance on imported foods is taking its toll on Nauru.

Nauru is an island that has long been struggling financially, and with food imports up to 90 percent the strain on its people is taking an increased toll.

The Fisheries representative Ross Cain says rice, which is the staple cereal, has risen from 48 dollar to 53 dollars for a 20-kilogram bag

"Most of these people now are unable to afford healthy food especially vegetables and fruits because those have increased in costs, we've no had to rely on fish mainly and other root crops that we are able to grow in Nauru."

However, Cain says the government is looking at measures like increasing the wages, and encouraging locals to produce their own vegetables, raising pigs and rely more on fish.

ON THE NET
www.nmihumanities.org

Registration begins for Jr. High Mock Trial Program

The NMI Council for the Humanities is inviting seventh and eighth grade classes from around the Commonwealth to register for the 2008 Junior High Mock Trial Program.

According to the Council's acting executive director, Scott Russell, the mock trial program is held annually to help junior high school students develop useful knowledge about the law in an enjoyable, non-competitive format.

The program also readies participants for the competitive mock trial program at the high school level.

Each participating mock trial team will be headed by a teacher coach and will receive periodic legal advice and guidance from a lawyer coach.

Russell said that the Council will sponsor a four-hour workshop in October to introduce teacher coaches to the program. Case materials will be ready for distribution to participating teams in November.

This year's program will culminate in a series of mock trials between participating teams to be held at the U.S. District Court chamber in March 2009 during which the judge will recognize exceptional performances by student lawyers and witnesses.

Russell said that registration forms may be obtained at the Council's office in Dandan or downloaded from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

Live fire training on FDM next week

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training and aerial survey on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla starting Monday next week.

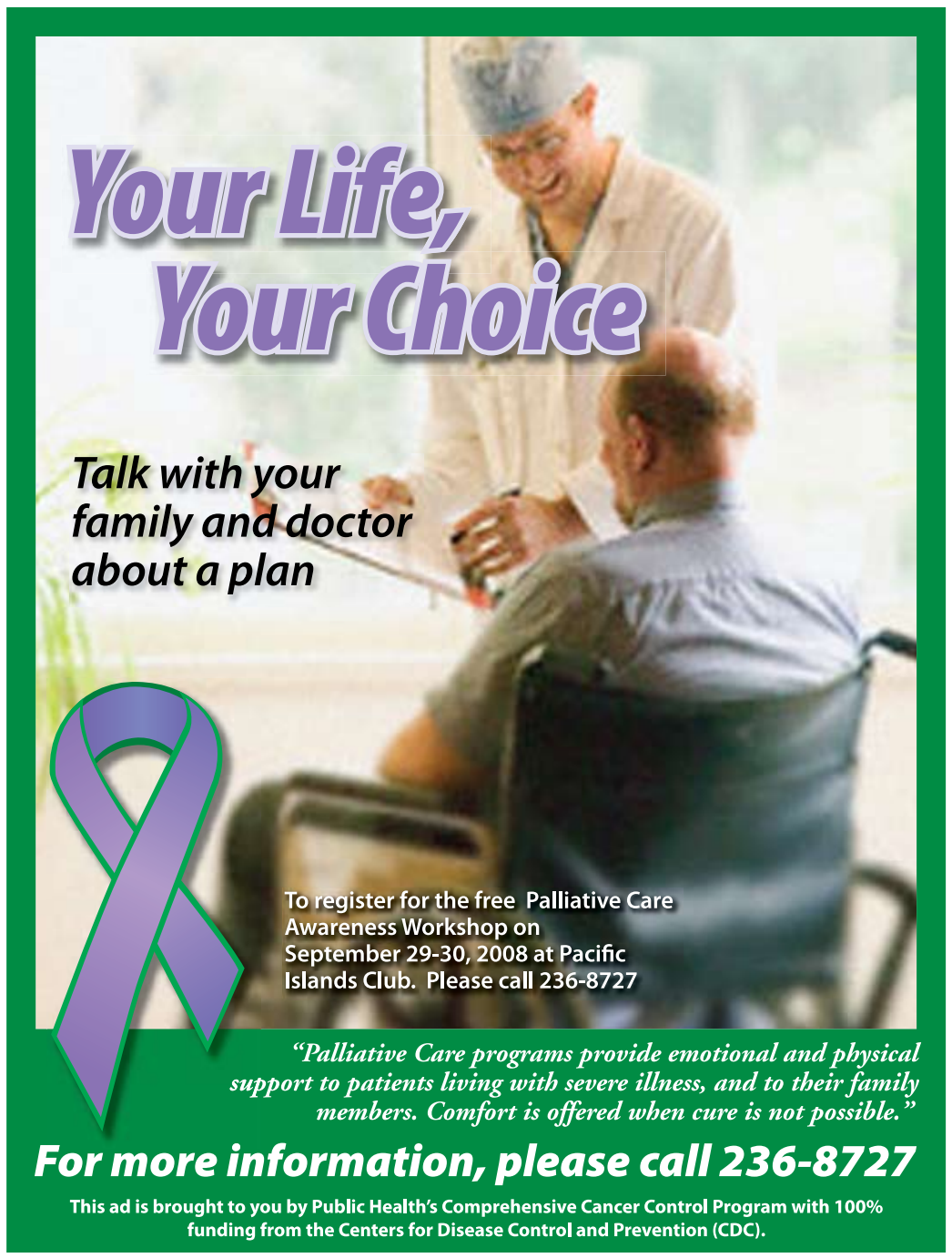
The schedule dates and time are as follow:

- Sept. 22, from 8am to 12pm – Aerial survey
- Sept. 22, from 12pm to 6:30pm – Live fire training
- Sept. 23 – 26, from 5am to 12:59am – Live fire training

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***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Plan for Kagman park shelved

A plan to create a public park in Kagman has been put in the back burner after lawmakers learned the proposed site has been designated for a watershed project.

The House Committee on Natural Resources has recommended that the proposal be filed. Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, who penned the legislation establishing the public park, has agreed with the recommendation.

Hofschneider's proposal was to designate a wetland and forested area bordering Kagman subdivisions I and II for a public park to be known as the Kagman Arboretum and Community Park.

But upon review, the Natural Resources Committee found that the land parcel has been designated for the Kagman watershed project since the early 1990s. The watershed plan includes the installation of a system of waterways for flood protection and for water collection and conveyance, a water storage reservoir, and an irrigation water distribution system. Accelerated land treatment to plan on-farm irrigation systems is also provided for in the watershed plan.

Approximately $4 million has already been spent on the watershed project. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

WELCOME TO SAIPAN! JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela presents a plaque of appreciation to USS *Rentz* commander Dave Glenister and his crew at the Sugar King Park in Garapan Sunday.

New species of iguana found in Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—A new species of Pacific Iguana has been discovered in the Fijian archipelago by a team comprising of Australian and U.S. researchers.

According to a report by ABC News, the team has shown that there are three living species of Brachylophus iguanas, not two as indicated in current taxonomy.

The new species is named *Brachylophus bulabula*, after the Fijian word for 'hello.'

In the reptile world, the Fijian iguanas are iconic, said lead author Associate Professor Scott Keogh, of the Australian National University's School of Botany and Zoology. To discover a new species of them is very exciting, he added.

The new species was uncovered after analysis of the mitochondrial DNA of 61 iguanas from 13 islands.

The study shows the *B. bulabula* iguana is genetically and physically different from the two other species.

According to reports, this species has a different colored nose, is intermediate in size, has a slightly different pattern on its body and is found only in the central region of Fiji.

As part of the research, the team also evaluated competing arguments about how the iguana arrived in the Pacific.

Professor Keogh said that the Pacific iguanas of the Fijian and Tongan archipelagos are a bio-geographic enigma because their closest relatives are found only in the Americas.

He said the genetic analysis adds weight to the theory the iguanas floated on some kind of raft to the Fijian islands somewhere between 13 to 14 million years ago.

American Samoa boy dies of dengue

69 cases confirmed so far this year

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (Samoa News/PIR)—Health Department medical director Dr. Ivan Tuliau said there are now 69 confirmed cases of dengue fever for this year and one fatality, which is a 10-year-old boy.

Tuliau told Samoa News yesterday that the youngster passed away two weeks ago. DOH received test results confirming the boy died from dengue fever this week.

"This is a very sad situation for the family to lose a child this young," he said in a telephone interview.

Early this month DOH reported 51 confirmed cases.

As of yesterday, DOH said there are now 69 confirmed cases of dengue fever for 2008 and of these cases 57 percent are male and 43 percent females, ranging from infants to adults.

Asked from which part of the territory the majority of dengue cases are being report, Dr. Tuliau said, "it's basically all over the island but many are in close clustered areas with high populations" such as Fagatogo, Pago Pago, Tafuna and similar areas.

As the number of dengue cases increase DOH is looking at other ways of launching a new awareness program, targeting youngsters.

Missing $8M puzzles Pago lawmakers

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (Samoa News/PIR)—It now appears that the total American Samoa Government FY 2009 budget is a little over US$333 million and not US$340.85 million.

The House Budget and Appropriation Committee discovered yesterday the $7.79 million in federal grants listed in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) FY 2009 budget does not exist. And in fact, the total DHS budget is only $435,000 and not $8.2 million as stated in the budget book.

DHS acting director Mike Sala told the House committee yesterday that there are no federal grants to homeland security as all homeland security funds have been frozen.

He said he doesn't know where the $7.79 million comes from in his department's budget, listed under federal grants. He added that he didn't provide such a figure when his department's budget was submitted to the ASG Budget Office for inclusion in the overall government budget.

Malemo Tausaga, an official of the Budget Office who has been at every House budget hearing, said perhaps this was the figure from last year's budget. He then humbly apologized to the House committee for the discrepancy and added that the committee can make necessary changes during their budget review.

SENATE

From Page 1

land Security and the U.S. Department of Labor will prove costly to the CNMI government and that talks with federal officials could mitigate any harm stricter rules for foreign workers might cause for the CNMI.

During the session here—held at the local courthouse—it became apparent that key lawmakers were at odds with the Senate leadership on the issue, with some backing the governor's stance.

"The federal government cannot tell us how many foreign workers we can import to the economic benefit of the CNMI," Sen. Joseph Mendiola said, adding foreign workers are needed now for major construction projects like the casinos developers plan to build here and on Tinian and that the legislation will infringe on the CNMI's right to self-government. "If we have to go to court, I will support that."

Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan added that the lawsuit could "clarify" the controversial points in the newly signed law at issue in the governor's suit and that despite the litigation, the CNMI would still have a chance to negotiate with the federal agencies now crafting the new regulations, which are due to be proposed later this year.

Sen. Luis Crisostimo also backed the supporters of the lawsuit, saying the legislation that prompted the federal takeover is "hostile" to the CNMI.

However, Senate President Pete Reyes pointed to the high price tag, $400,000, that the lawsuit carries, saying that the cash-strapped local government has a host of higher priorities and needs the money. Moreover, he added the litigation could damage the CNMI's standing on Capitol Hill in the future.

"Even if we win, we may still lose," he said, noting that the CNMI could pursue other options to address the issue with federal authorities, such as talks under the Covenant's section 902 provision. "The U.S. Congress is the most powerful body in the entire world right now. Are we willing to risk [a lawsuit] and lose in the process our friends?"

And negotiating with federal authorities could yield concessions that favor the CNMI and stem the impact of the new rules, said Senate Vice President Felix Mendiola, who suggested that the lawsuit, much like a declaration of war, represents a failure of diplomacy. The price of the litigation, he said, is also problematic.

"We are hurting and therefore the committee must emphasize that we just don't have the money," said Mendiola.

In a related development, the Senate passed a resolution asking federal officials to include in any new immigration rules for the CNMI a visa waiver for Chinese and Russian visitors. Local officials have said the visa waiver program is critical to the survival of the local tourism market.

HOUSE

From Page 1

evening adopted the committee report. ***(See related story.)*** Rep. Diego T. Benavente, chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations, said he was pleased with the Senate's action, and expressed confidence that the House will follow suit.

"I have discussed this with the Speaker [Arnold Palacios]. We're comfortable that majority of the members will support the committee's recommendation," Benavente said yesterday.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has asked the Legislature for $400,000, or about $50,000 a month, to pursue the suit he has filed to stop federal immigration laws from being imposed on the Commonwealth. The requested amount will cover six to eight months in expenses related to the suit.

But in a joint report, the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations and the Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies recommend that the Legislature decline the governor's request.

The joint report contends that the money would be better spent on providing essential public services. It adds that the Commonwealth has a greater chance of getting what it wants by working with the federal government. By pursuing a court battle, the CNMI government risks excluding itself from ongoing efforts to develop the federal immigration regulations.

"The Joint Committee strongly opposes the Administration's proposal to sue the federal government, and recommends that no public funds should be approved for lawsuit. Litigation is likely to be a costly drain on scarce local resources, and it is highly unlikely, as the Administration has acknowledged, that the Commonwealth will prevail on its arguments in court," the report states.

It says the joint committee favors negotiation with the U.S. government and urges the Legislature to be pro-active and get involved in the drafting of the regulations.

"It is the view of the Joint Committee that a cooperative rather than adversarial approach in dealing with the federal government to likelier to result in favorable concessions sought by the CNMI in relation to tourist visas, foreign investor visas, worker visas, and technical assistance programs, which would help facilitate the economic recovery and future prosperity of the Commonwealth," the report says.

CONFIRMS

From Page 1

as acting director of Commerce after the resignation of his recently indicted former boss, James Santos—gained the Senate's confirmation to serve as Commerce secretary without any objections from lawmakers.

"I'm pretty excited," Ada said in an interview. "I'm hoping to just keep doing what we're doing and try to encourage the business community to grow. It's good to have the 'acting' piece off the job title."

Later, the confirmation of attorney Perry Inos to serve as an associate Superior Court judge, a vote that got a round of applause from the gallery, garnered one key question from Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) on how he would handle the clients he still has and the assets he stands to gain from his current work.

The clients at issue, Inos said, will be transferred to a new attorney and he will still receive the money they currently owe him. However, the task of finding a new attorney for his indigent clients appeared to give Inos pause.

"This is a bittersweet for me," he said. "It is an honorable position to occupy as an associate judge with the Commonwealth but it is also a difficult time for me to part with some of my indigent clients."

In an interview, Inos said accepting the governor's appointment was an emotional decision in light of his desire to help his indigent clients. The process of finding all of his clients new attorneys will soon begin, he added.

In a third vote, the Senate confirmed Cecilia Celes to serve as secretary for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. Celes said afterwards that she hopes to improve the training and support staff with Rota and Tinian's food stamp offices—which are under the purview of DCCA—in order to give them the power to serve clients and process their requests more quickly without the need for off-island assistance.

"I want to ask all of the staff of DCCA for their support in helping me realize the programs and projects that need to be done," she said. "If we are good caretakers of our programs we can find solutions to improve things."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tinian checkpoint set
The Tinian Department of Public Safety will be conducting a seatbelt/child restraint checkpoint on Monday, Sept. 22, 2008, between 7am and 8am on Broadway Road by the former Democratic Headquarters. The second checkpoint will begin at 5pm and end at 6pm on the same date on Broadway Road located next to the Million Poker establishment. ***(PR)***

Delegate candidates' forum today
The Kagman community will be having a public forum today, Saturday, Sept. 20, from 6pm to 9pm at the Kagman Community Center for all the candidates for CNMI delegate. It will be hosted by the Kagman Komunidat Association. Candidates will get the chance to present themselves and where they stand. The public is invited to attend. ***(PR)***

Public forum with John H. Davis
There will be a public forum to meet with John H. Davis Jr., a candidate for delegate to the U.S. Congress, on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008, 4:30pm - 6:30pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan.

The public is invited to meet with Davis, listen to his views on what he can offer as the CNMI's delegate to the U.S. Congress, and join in the discussion with any questions or concerns that anyone may have. For more information, contact Jeanne Rayphand, 287-9807. ***(PR)***

SSHS PTA meeting set
To all parents and legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School student: There will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008, at 6pm in the cafeteria. ***(PR)***

EMO to host Multi-Cultural Day Sunday
The CNMI Emergency Management Office, under the Office of the Governor, will be sponsoring "Multi-Cultural Day" on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008, from 2pm to 5pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center as part of the activities of Disaster Preparedness Month.

"The Multi-Cultural Day is just one of the many activities the Disaster Preparedness Month Committee had planned for this year's monthlong event. The public is invited and the doors will be open to everyone," said acting EMO director Theodore J. Untalan.

The event would include free presentations and informational displays on disaster preparedness. For more information contact, Untalan at 322-8001/2/3. ***(EMO)***

MAFEA lunch meeting today
The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects will have a lunch meeting today, Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008, 11am—1pm, at Miggy's Restaurant in Garapan, Saipan

All officers, board of directors and advisers are requested to attend the scheduled meeting. For more information, contact Bong de Guzman at 233- 5938 or Lito Marquez at 286-6337. ***(PR)***

United States
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Council on Developmental Disabilities
Call for Special Meeting

Attention General Public:

We the undersigned members, composing of a majority of the membership of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities are hereby calling for a Special Meeting to take place on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 9 am in the NMPASI Conference Room. The meeting is called upon based on the Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated June 11, 2007 and January 31, 2003)

Agenda:

I. Welcoming Remarks

II. Roll Call

III. Establishment of Quorum

IV. Executive Session

V. Open Session

VI. Next Meeting

VII. Closure

Dutifully Authorized and Approved by:

Roger Abe, J. Marissa Guerrero, James Rayphand, Suzanne Lizama, Margarita Olopai-Taitano, David Attao, Edith Deleon Guerrero, Derek Duenas, Cynthia Attao, Howard Macaranas, Jolanda Aquino, Helen Sablan

Transmitter glitch knocks KRNM off air

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KRNM, the CNMI's only public radio station, was knocked off the air last week due to problems with the transmitter.

The station has not been broadcasting since Friday.

The Northern Marianas College, where the station is located, is waiting for an FCC-certified telecommunications engineer to arrive from Guam to assess the situation, according to NMC. Once the repairs are finished, the station will be back on air broadcasting 24-hours a day.

The station has been running without a station manager after Carl Pogue left the island last month. The station has been relying on recorded material since Pogue, who worked at the station for nine years, left.

NPR and BBC have been playing through an online stream, while Radio Australia is expected to play through the end of this month or the beginning of next month.

Earlier this year, NMC said they would no longer be able to fund the radio station. In the past, NMC provided space for the station, paid the cost of utilities and staff, and provided other related services. The station needs approximately $150,000 per year to continue to operate.

The Board of Regents is expected to discuss the station's future at the next meeting.

Who may apply for Social Security numbers

BOOK LAUNCHING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Sonia Camacho and Juanita Guerrero read a copy of the book titled *From Goatherd to Shepherd*, a short biography of Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, during its launching at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa's Diocesan Curia Thursday morning. Author Jess R.A. Sonoda provides an insight on the bishop's journey from a young boy raising goats on a farm to being the Vatican's pick as Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

Social Security Numbers can be issued only to individuals who have legal permission to work in the United States or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to individuals who are required by law or regulation to have a social security number. A social security number is not required to obtain a driver's license; attend school; obtain health insurance; apply for a U.S. passport or open a bank account.

Pursuant to Public Law 15-108 and amendments to the Alien Rules and Regulations of the CNMI Department of Immigration which came into effect on Feb. 1, 2008, permit holders listed below are considered to have employment authorization under the laws of the Commonwealth and therefore a social security number can be issued:

706 A	Special Industry Employees
706 B	CNMI Government
706 D	Immediate Relative of a Non-Alien
706 F	Diplomat or Consular
706 I	Foreign Press
706 J	Distinguished Merit
706 K	Alien Contract Worker
706 L	Religious Member
706 M	Religious Missionary
706 N.6A	Long Term Business
706 P	Temporary Work Authorization

The Internal Revenue Service will only issue an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number to individuals who are filing a tax return with the US IRS; to individuals who already have a bank account in the U.S. or CNMI; and in some other extremely limited situations. For more information about ITINs, contact the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or www.irs.gov. ***(PR)***

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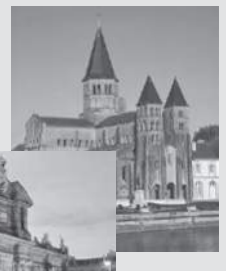

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Back to bailouts

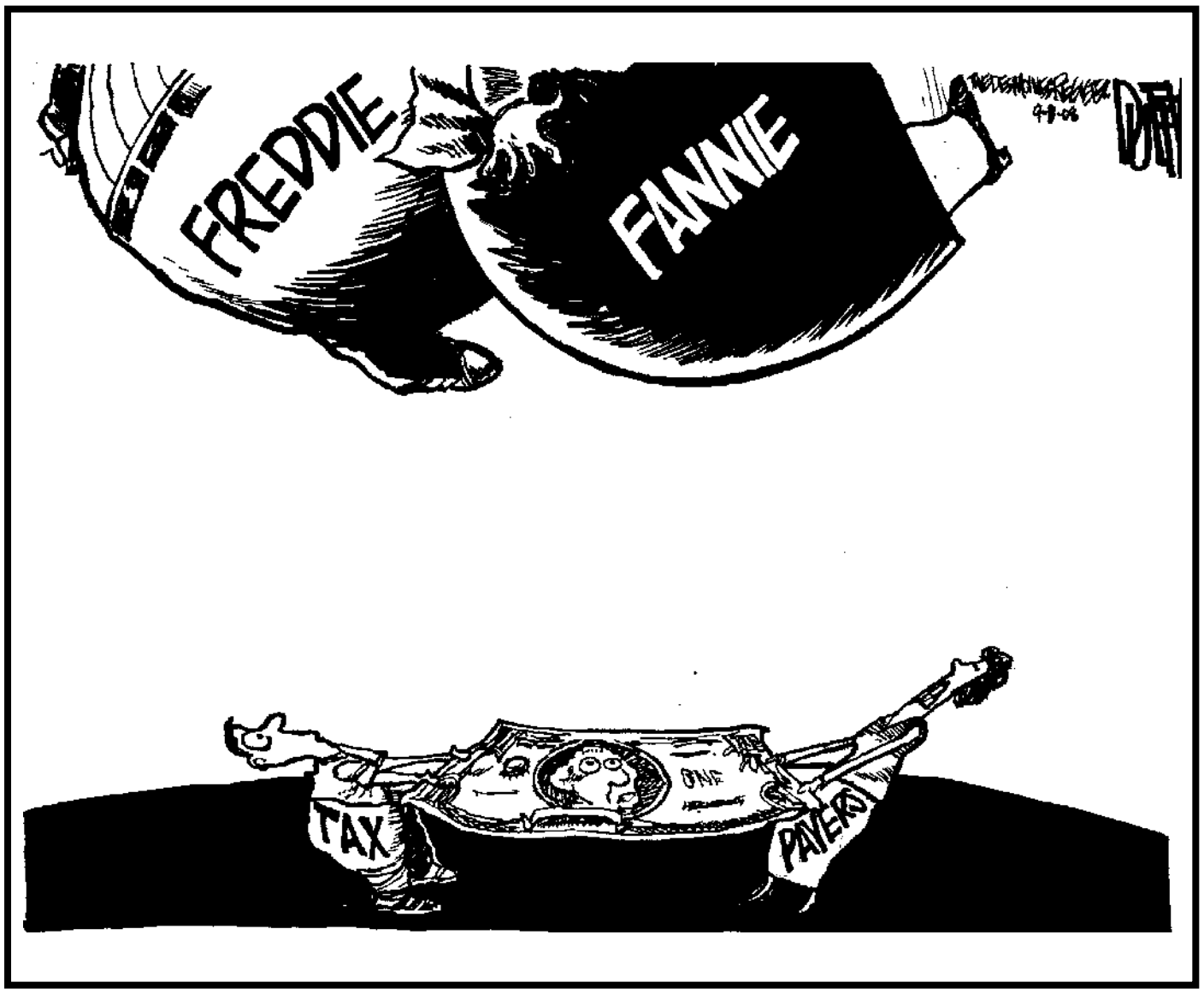
That was quick. On Monday, it appeared that the federal government, having allowed two investment banks, Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch, to disappear as independent entities, might be embarking on a new "no bailouts" policy for Wall Street. Special systemic risks posed by Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac justified government relief, it seemed, but from now on, financial firms would sink or swim, as per textbook economics. Then, on Tuesday night, the Federal Reserve Board launched a de facto takeover of insurance giant American International Group. Wednesday, American taxpayers woke up to find themselves in the insurance business.

You can construct a plausible case that the government's actions have been consistent. The argument would be that, each in its own way, Bear, Fannie, Freddie and now AIG posed such sudden and catastrophic danger to the overall financial system if they were to collapse that there was no alternative but the assumption of long-term taxpayer risk—whereas markets were better prepared for the long-incubating troubles at Lehman and Merrill, which were, in any case, less threatening to wider financial stability. Certainly we wouldn't quarrel with the determination by Fed Chairman Ben S. Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. that AIG could have brought the financial world down with it. It was on the hook for $441 billion of credit default swaps—essentially contracts to reimburse holders of mortgage-backed and other securities if that paper went bad. If AIG defaulted on those, the resulting cascade of losses could have frozen global markets. The Fed had no time to ponder the irony that AIG's death spiral was set in motion by a lower rating from the same credit agencies that had enabled so many risky mortgage-backed securities in the first place.

The Fed hardly wrote AIG a blank check: In exchange for $85 billion in loans, which have to be repaid with interest in two years, it gets control of management and first dibs on proceeds from the sale of AIG's assets, as well as profits from its fairly sound global insurance business. The government fired the top executives who presided over this debacle; holders of the company's now worthless stock probably don't feel like the recipients of a bailout. "Moral hazard," though hardly eliminated, was not ignored.

The problem here is that federal authorities are still in reactive mode, responding to the crisis of the day served up by panicky markets. Among the many risks

See BACK on Page 7



An intervention strategy for the US economic mess

By ROSA BROOKS
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Brooks is a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center. E-mail her at rbrooks@latimescolumnists.com.

Dear United States, Welcome to the Third World!

It's not every day that a superpower makes a bid to transform itself into a Third World nation, and we here at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund want to be among the first to welcome you to the community of states in desperate need of international economic assistance. As you spiral into a catastrophic financial meltdown, we are delighted to respond to your Treasury Department's request that we undertake a joint stability assessment of your financial sector. In these turbulent times, we can provide services ranging from subsidized loans to expert advisers willing to perform an emergency overhaul of your entire government.

As you know, some outside intervention in your economy is overdue. Last week—even before Wall Street's latest collapse—13 former finance ministers convened at the University of Virginia and agreed that you must fix your "broken financial system." Australia's Peter Costello noted that lately you've been "exporting instability" in world markets, and Yashwant Sinha, former finance minister of India, concluded, "The time has come. The U.S. should accept some monitoring by the IMF."

We hope you won't feel embarrassed as we assess the stability of your economy and suggest needed changes. Remember, many other countries have been in your shoes. We've bailed out the economies of Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia and South Korea. But whether our work is in Sudan, Bangladesh or now the United States, our experts are committed to intervening in national economies with care and sensitivity.

We thus want to acknowledge the progress you have made in your evolution from economic superpower to economic basket case. Normally, such a process might take 100 years or more. With your oscillation between free-market extremism and nationalization of private companies, however, you have achieved, in a few short years, many of the key hallmarks of Third World economies.

Your policies of irresponsible government deregulation in critical sectors allowed you to develop an energy crisis, a housing crisis, a credit crisis and a financial market crisis, all at once, and accompanied (and partly caused) by impressive levels of corruption and speculation. Meanwhile, those of your political leaders charged with oversight were either napping or in bed with corporate lobbyists.

Take John McCain, your Republican presidential nominee, whose senior staff includes half a dozen prominent former lobbyists. As he recently put it, "I was chairman of the (Senate) Commerce Committee that oversights every part of the economy." No question about it: Your leaders' failure to notice the damage done by irresponsible deregulation was indeed an oversight of epic proportions.

Now you are facing the consequences. Income inequality has increased, as the rich have gotten windfalls while the middle class has seen incomes stagnate. Fewer and fewer of your citizens have access to affordable housing, health care or security in retirement. Even life expectancy has dropped. And when your economic woes went from chronic to acute, you responded -- like so many Third World states have—with an extensive program of nationalizing private companies and assets. Your mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are now state owned and controlled, and this week your reinsurance giant AIG was effectively nationalized, with the Federal Reserve Board seizing an 80 percent equity stake in the flailing company.

Some might deride this as socialism. But desperate times call for desperate measures.

Admittedly, your transition to Third World status is far from over, and it won't be painless. At first, for instance, you might find it hard to get used to the shantytowns that will replace the exurban sprawl of McMansions that helped fuel the real estate speculation bubble. But in time, such shantytowns will become part of the landscape. Similarly, as unemployment rates continue to rise, you initially will struggle to find a use for the expanding pool of angry, jobless young men. But you gradually will realize that you can recruit them to fight in a ceaseless round of armed conflicts, a solution that has been used by many other Third World states before you. Indeed, with your wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, you are off to an excellent start.

Perhaps this letter comes as a surprise to you, and you feel you're not fully ready to join the Third World. Don't let this feeling concern you. Although you might not have realized it, you've been preparing for this moment for years.

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How America measures poverty

By REBECCA M. BLANK
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Blank is the Robert V. Kerr senior fellow in economics at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Who is poor in America? It turns out that's a hard question to answer.

The federal government's badly outdated method of measuring poverty provides an inaccurate picture. New York found the official numbers so useless that the city recently developed its own poverty measure. Other cities, including Los Angeles, are considering doing the same thing, and those efforts are expected to be high on the agenda when the U.S. Conference of Mayors meets in Los Angeles on Sept. 23-24.

But what's most needed is an overhaul of the nation's poverty measurement statistics. The good news is that legislation is being drafted in both the House and Senate. A change is long overdue.

Why does it matter if we have a good measure of poverty? In the last four decades, the U.S. has greatly expanded programs for lower-income families, including food stamps, housing vouchers, medical-care assistance and tax credits. But the poverty rate doesn't take any of these resources into account because it doesn't account for taxes or noncash income. At the same time, Americans' medical expenses have increased, and more single parents work and pay child-care expenses. The current poverty measure is unaffected by these changes too.

The result? Poverty statistics that make it depressingly easy to claim that public spending on the poor has had little effect. Indeed, most programs to help the needy would never budge the U.S. poverty rate the way we measure it now.

The current measure of poverty was established in 1964 by a Social Security Administration economist named Mollie Orshansky. Looking at data from 1955—the best available in the early 1960s—she found that a family spent, on average, one-third of its income on food. Hence, three-times-food became the official poverty line. That line has ticked upward only by being adjusted for inflation each year.

No other regularly reported economic statistic has been unchanged for four decades. Food prices have fallen; today, food constitutes less than one-seventh of the average family's budget. But people pay substantially more for housing and energy.

Still, the old poverty measure continues to be used by all sorts of government programs. Some use it for eligibility limits; most families below 130 percent of the poverty line, for instance, are eligible for food stamps. Some federal block grants to states are partly based on state poverty levels.

In 1995, I participated in a panel of scholars at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), a group that advises the federal government on scientific issues. We recommended a far more effective way to establish a poverty threshold, based on expenditures for a bundle of necessities, including food, shelter, clothing and utilities. Furthermore, this threshold would vary geographically, based on differences in housing costs.

This would mean that families in Los Angeles have a different poverty line from families in rural Wyoming. When New York calculated a new threshold with this methodology, officials found that it was $21,818 for a family of four, not far from the official U.S. figure of $20,444. But when they adjusted for New York's high housing costs, it rose to $26,138.

But the poverty measure also needs to recognize that the resources in low-income families extend beyond wages and cash income. The NAS panel recommended a much broader definition, including cash income adjusted for tax payments, plus the value of government benefits such as food stamps or Section 8 rental vouchers. Unavoidable costs were subtracted from income, as well, because working requires spending money on transportation and, often, child care. Similarly, out-of-pocket medical expenses also were deducted.

Why weren't these changes made years ago? That's a story of politics getting in the way of good statistics. Back in the 1960s, the poverty measure was placed under the control of the White House. This is in contrast to all of our other national statistics, which are defined and updated by agencies with a long history of nonpolitical decision making.

Unfortunately, no president (Democrat or Republican) has wanted to touch this political hot potato. If a new measure shows higher poverty, the president looks bad, but if a new measure shows lower poverty, he'll be accused of dismissing the problem.

And the numbers will change. In New York, where the official U.S. poverty measure finds 18 percent of the city is poor, the new measure (largely because of housing costs) finds 23 percent. But the picture will be more accurate. New York found rates differed little for children but were much higher for the elderly because of out-of-pocket medical expenditures.

That's why Congress needs to pass legislation to direct one of the statistical agencies to calculate a new federal poverty measure, guided by the NAS recommendations. Under a new measure, single-mother families receiving food stamps and in subsidized housing would appear a little better off; disabled individuals with high medical expenses, a little worse. Families in big cities with high housing costs, such as in California, would be poorer, and families that receive working tax credits less poor.

But that is just as it should be. If we want to debate new policies to help the poor, we first need a poverty measure that shows us who they really are.

Case closed on the Rosenbergs

By RONALD RADOSH
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Radosh, an emeritus professor of history at City University of New York and an adjunct senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, is the co-author of The Rosenberg File.

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed 55 years ago, on June 19, 1953. But last week, they were back in the headlines when Morton Sobell, the co-defendant in their famous espionage trial, finally admitted that he and his friend Julius had both been Soviet agents.

It was a stunning admission; Sobell, now 91 years old, had adamantly maintained his innocence for more than half a century. After his comments were published, even the Rosenbergs' children, Robert and Michael Meeropol, were left with little hope to hang on to—and this week, in comments unlike any they've made previously, the brothers acknowledged having reached the difficult conclusion that their father was, indeed, a spy. "I don't have any reason to doubt Morty," Michael Meeropol told Sam Roberts of The New York Times.

With these latest events, the end has arrived for the legions of the American left wing that have argued relentlessly for more than half a century that the Rosenbergs were victims, framed by a hostile, fear-mongering U.S. government. Since the couple's trial, the left has portrayed them as martyrs for civil liberties, righteous dissenters whose chief crime was to express their constitutionally protected political beliefs. In the end, the left has argued, the two communists were put to death not for spying but for their unpopular opinions, at a time when the Truman and Eisenhower administrations were seeking to stem opposition to their anti-Soviet foreign policy during the Cold War.

To this day, this received wisdom permeates our educational system. A recent study by historian Larry Schweikart of the University of Dayton in Ohio has found that very few college history textbooks say simply that the Rosenbergs were guilty; according to Schweikart, most either state that the couple was innocent or that the trial was "controversial," or they "excuse what (the Rosenbergs) did by saying, `It wasn't that bad. What they provided wasn't important.'"

Indeed, Columbia University professor Eric Foner once wrote that the Rosenbergs were prosecuted out of a "determined effort to root out dissent," part of a broader pattern of "shattered careers and suppressed civil liberties." In other words, it was part of the postwar McCarthyite "witch hunt."

But, in fact, Schweikart is right, and Foner is wrong. The Rosenbergs were Soviet spies, and not minor ones either. Not only did they try their best to give the Soviets top atomic secrets from the Manhattan Project, they succeeded in handing over top military data on sonar and on radar that was used by the Russians to shoot down U.S. planes in the Korean and Vietnam wars. That's long been known, and Sobell confirmed it again last week.

To many Americans, Cold War espionage cases such as the Rosenberg and Alger Hiss cases that once riveted the country seem irrelevant today, something out of the distant past. But they're not irrelevant. They're a crucial part of the ongoing dispute between right and left in this country. For the left, it has long been an article of faith that these prosecutions showed the essentially repressive nature of the U.S. government. Even as the guilt of the accused has become more and more clear (especially since the fall of the Soviet Union and the release of reams of historical Cold War documents), these "anti-anti-communists" of the intellectual left have continued to argue that the prosecutions were overzealous, or that the crimes were minor, or that the punishments were disproportionate.

The left consistently has defended spies such as Hiss, the Rosenbergs and Sobell as victims of contrived frame-ups. Because such a demagogue as Sen. Joseph McCarthy cast a wide swath with indiscriminate attacks on genuine liberals as "reds" (and even though McCarthy made some charges that were accurate), the anti-anti-communists came to argue that anyone accused by McCarthy or Richard Nixon or J. Edgar Hoover should be assumed to be entirely innocent. People such as Hiss (a former State Department official who was accused of spying) cleverly hid their true espionage work by gaining sympathy as just another victim of a smear attack.

But now, with Sobell's confession of guilt, that worldview has been demolished.

In the 1990s, when it was more than clear that the Rosenbergs had been real Soviet spies—not simply a pair of idealistic left-wingers working innocently for peace with the Russians—one of the Rosenberg's sons, Michael, expressed the view that the reason his parents stayed firm and did not cooperate with the government was that they wanted to keep the government from creating "a massive spy show trial," thereby earning "the thanks of generations of resisters to government repression."

Today, he and his brother, Robert, run a fund giving grants to the children of those they deem "political prisoners," such as convicted cop killer Mumia Abu-Jamal. Ironically, if there was any government that staged show trials for political ends, it was the government for which the Rosenbergs gave up their lives, that of the former Soviet Union.

This week, the Meeropol brothers made it clear to The New York Times that they still believe the information their father passed to the Russians was not terribly significant, that the judge and the prosecutors in their parents' case were guilty of misconduct, and that neither Julius nor Ethel should have been given the death penalty for their crimes.

On the subject of their mother, the Meeropols have a point. In another development last week, a federal court judge in New York released previously sealed grand jury testimony of key witnesses in the case, including that of Ruth Greenglass, Julius' sister-in-law. It turns out that a key part of her testimony for the prosecution—that Ethel had typed up notes for her husband to hand to the Soviets—was most likely concocted.

That doesn't mean that Ethel was innocent—indeed, the preponderance of evidence suggests she was not. But what is clear is that in seeking to get the defendants to confess to Soviet espionage, the prosecutors overstepped bounds and enhanced testimony to guarantee a conviction. Americans should have no problem acknowledging when such judicial transgressions take place, and in concluding that the execution of Ethel was a miscarriage of justice.

Nevertheless, after Sobell's confession of guilt, all other conspiracy theories about the Rosenberg case should come to an end. A pillar of the left-wing culture of grievance has been finally shattered. The Rosenbergs were actual and dangerous Soviet spies. It is time the ranks of the left acknowledge that the United States had (and has) real enemies and that finding and prosecuting them is not evidence of repression.

BACK

From Page 6

this creates is that traders can essentially stampede government into bailing out one company after another — until even Washington runs out of cash. The bill so far this year: $29 billion for the Bear rescue; up to $200 billion in equity injections for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (plus $5 billion to buy their mortgage securities) and now $85 billion for AIG. Notably, the Fed had to ask the Treasury for a fresh $40 billion in government securities Wenesday, just in case.

The losses are far from over. Government must devise a more predictable and transparent way to help wind up the financial sector's bad investments — along with new rules to help prevent a repeat performance in the future. That's asking a lot. It's asking even more to insist that it be done in the middle of a crisis and when Congress, a weakened president and two presidential candidates are fully engaged in election-year politics. But no economic issue is more urgent, and the winners in November will have to face it squarely.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. A slight chance of thunderstorms in the morning. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼78°

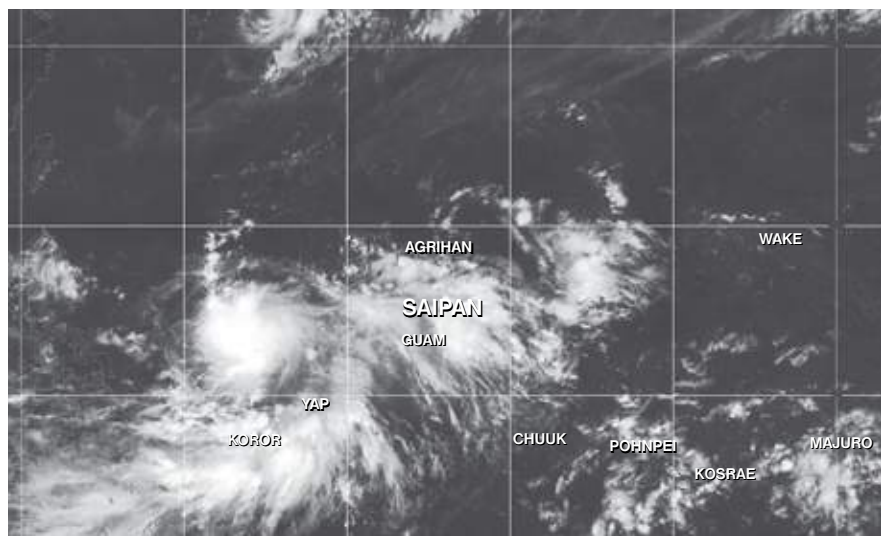
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼71
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼51
Beijing	Cloudy	▲82	▼66
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲91	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲63	▼47
Miami	Showers	▲89	▼76
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼57
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼69
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼48
Pusan	Cloudy	▲76	▼67
Rome	Sunny	▲70	▼49
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲69	▼52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲72	▼55
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼61
Tokyo	Rain	▲79	▼70
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼56

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:30PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

TD 18W with a circulation center west of the Marianas near 18N136E is producing numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms within 140 miles of 14N134E. Convergent winds going into the circulation center of TD 18W are producing numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms within 110 miles of a line curving from 12N140E to 5N130E and scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 18N140E to 11N152E. For more detailed information on this system, refer to WTPQ32 PGUM or JTWC warning WTPN32 PGTW. An upper-level low is centered near 19N148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the low can be found south of Minami Tori Shima between 15N and 20N from 152E and 157E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in a few areas. The first area is located in the vicinity of Pohnpei and Kosrae within an area bounded by a line that runs from 10N157E to EQ154E to 5N163E back to 10N157E. The second area is south of Kwajelein within 175 miles of 5N169E and the third area is east of Majuro within 200 miles of 6N177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:55AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:48AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:08PM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:15PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:06AM	6:14 PM
Monday	6:06AM	6:13 PM
Tuesday	6:06AM	6:12 PM
Wednesday	6:06AM	6:12 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:57PM	10:27AM
Sunday	10:57PM	11:32AM
Monday		12:35PM
Tuesday	12:00AM	1:34PM
Wednesday	1:04AM	2:27PM

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
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- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 20, 1999

Feds can help enforce laws
Legislative leaders underscored the need for active participation by federal agencies in the enforcement of U.S. laws in the Northern Marianas, saying this will help local authorities enforce labor and immigration reforms on the island. Testifying before the U.S. House Resources Committee in a hearing held Thursday in Washington D.C. (Friday local time), House Speaker Diego T. Benavente and Senate President Paul A. Manglona said the legislation put in place by CNMI are enough to help improve conditions here.

Asiana to boost flights to CNMI
With the expected increase in visitor arrivals from Korea during the honeymoon season, Asiana Airlines will carry out Pusan-Saipan chartered flights twice a week beginning October 12 until end of December 1999. According to Hyung Joon Lim, general manager on Saipan, Asiana is looking at the possibility of having a regular Pusan-Saipan flight in the middle of next year.

Takeover threat dulls attraction of CNMI to investors
Saipan Chamber of Commerce vice president Lynn Knight said she is confident that the business sector presented a credible and unified stand with the CNMI government on the devastating effects of a federal takeover during the Sept. 16 hearing in the U.S. House Committee on Resources. Knight, who spoke on behalf of the Chamber, said she discussed the state of business on the island and how the proposed federalization of labor and immigration functions would result in economic disaster.

September 20, 2000

Gov't calms fears on tourists' safety
The government has taken steps to protect tourists and visitors to the Northern Marianas following the issuance of a travel advisory by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs which has listed the islands as unsafe destination for its travelers. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio disclosed yesterday he has been meeting with officials of various departments and agencies, including immigration and public safety, in response to the advisory which was posted on the website of the foreign ministry.

Committee created to deal with crimes
Government and private sectors yesterday moved swiftly to prevent any adverse effect which the travel advisory issued by the Japanese government may cause on the tourism economy. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan asked its citizens to take precautionary measures when traveling to the Northern Marianas due to the increasing crimes of robbery, murder, drug use and smuggling.

Mandarin Air reports slight drop in load factor
Taipei-based Mandarin Airlines yesterday reported a slight drop in passenger haul from Taiwan last month compared with traffic figures recorded in July, primarily because August is a traditionally off-peak period. Mandarin Airlines Saipan Station Manager Charlie Ling said the carrier was dispatching its twice-per-week flight between Saipan and Taipei with an average 87 percent load factor in August, lower than the previous month's 91 percent.

September 20, 2001

House hopes to avert economic disaster
The House of Representatives is poised to create an ad hoc committee that will work with the Office of the Governor in drafting out a strategic plan to avert a possible economic disaster in the CNMI, brought on by any drop in tourist arrivals. During yesterday's special session, House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial announced that he will be creating the ad hoc committee to be composed of selected legislators who will help the Governor in mapping out an effective action plan for the local economy.

'Our kids are falling apart'
When 9th through 12th grade health class students at one public high school were asked to jot down their top sources of stress, majority of the answers boiled down to unhappy home life and low self-esteem. Public School System Health Coordinator Jackie Quitugua, an active advocate against teen suicides, said these responses should sound the alarm for a re-evaluation of student-parent relationships and the implementation of activities that would uplift students' self-confidence.

Business

Possible financial crisis fix sends stocks soaring

WASHINGTON (AP)—The stock market finally found reason to rally Thursday, and Congress promised quick action as the Bush administration prepared a plan to rescue banks from the bad debt at the heart of the worst crisis on Wall Street since the Great Depression.

Details of the plan were still being worked out, but Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson emerged from a nighttime meeting on Capitol Hill to say he hoped to have a solution "aimed right at the heart of this problem."

As word of a government plan began to reach Wall Street earlier in the day, the Dow Jones industrial average jumped 410 points, its biggest percentage gain in nearly six years.

The rebound also came after an infusion of billions of dollars by the Federal Reserve and world governments aimed at getting nervous banks to stop hoarding money and lend again.

Stocks had fluctuated throughout the day, without severe swings in either direction, until CNBC reported the administration might back a new agency to take bad assets off the books of struggling financial institutions, much like it did in the aftermath of the savings and loan crisis of the 1980s.

After the discussions Thursday night, Paulson said the goal was to come up with a "comprehensive approach that will require legislation" to deal with the bad debts, or illiquid assets, on bank's balance sheets. He did not provide any details, but the plan taking shape called for Congress to give the administration the power to buy distressed bank assets.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, said that probably would not mean creating a new government agency.

"It will be the power—it may not be a new entity. It will be the power to buy up illiquid assets," Frank said. "There is this concern that if you had to wait to set up an entity, it could take too long."

Frank said his committee could begin drafting legislation as early as Wednesday.

Paulson, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and other officials planned to work through the weekend on a solution. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said that once the administration had presented its proposal, "we hope to move very quickly" to come to an agreement.

There was no immediate word how much the rescue plan might cost.

The banks still standing are staggering under the weight of billions of dollars of bad loans and mortgage debt arising from the wave of home foreclosures in the United States, and lending has tightened around the world in response.

Before the sun rose on Wall Street on Thursday, the Fed said it would boost by as much as $180 billion the amount of cash it would supply to foreign counterparts that are short on dollars. For banks in the United States, the Fed supplied $105 billion in short-term loans later in the day.

Asian stocks soar on possible US rescue package

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets soared Friday as a news of a U.S. government plan to rescue banks from risky mortgage debt brought hope of a letup in the world's worst financial crisis in decades.

Japan's Nikkei 225 average advanced 3.2 percent to 11,859.75, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index shot up nearly 7 percent to 18,836.90.

Stock measures in China, Taiwan, South Korea and Australia were also sharply higher.

After a week of steep losses, regional markets were lifted partly by gains Thursday on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average surged 410.03, or 3.86 percent, to 11,019.69—the benchmarks biggest percentage point gain since October 2002.

Investors also were reacting to news that the U.S. government was seeking the power to rescue banks by buying distressed assets at the heart of the financial system's crisis that has brought down Wall Street giants Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch and Bear Stearns.

Details of the plan were still being worked out, but U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson emerged from a nighttime meeting on Capitol Hill to say he hoped to have a solution "aimed right at the heart of this problem."

The news triggered a rally in U.S. stock futures. Dow futures rose 157 points, or 1.4 percent, to 11,142 and S&P 500 futures rose 27 points, or 2.3 percent. to 1230.40 Thursday night.

Asian financials, meanwhile, powered higher, with China's biggest lender, Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd, or ICBC, rising 14 percent. Banks in Japan and Australia also gained.

In currencies, the dollar climbed against the yen to 106.74.

Nation

Obama mocks McCain's call to fire SEC chairman

AMERICA VOTES

ESPANOLA, N.M. (AP)—Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama promised fresh ideas Thursday to calm America's financial meltdown and help struggling families avoid mortgage foreclosure, saying "this is not a time for fear, it's not a time for panic."

Obama also heaped criticism and sarcasm on Republican rival John McCain and mocked his promise to fire the head of the Securities and Exchange Commission if elected.

"I think that's all fine and good but here's what I think," Obama said. "In the next 47 days you can fire the whole trickle-down, on-your-own, look-the-other way crowd in Washington who has led us down this disastrous path.

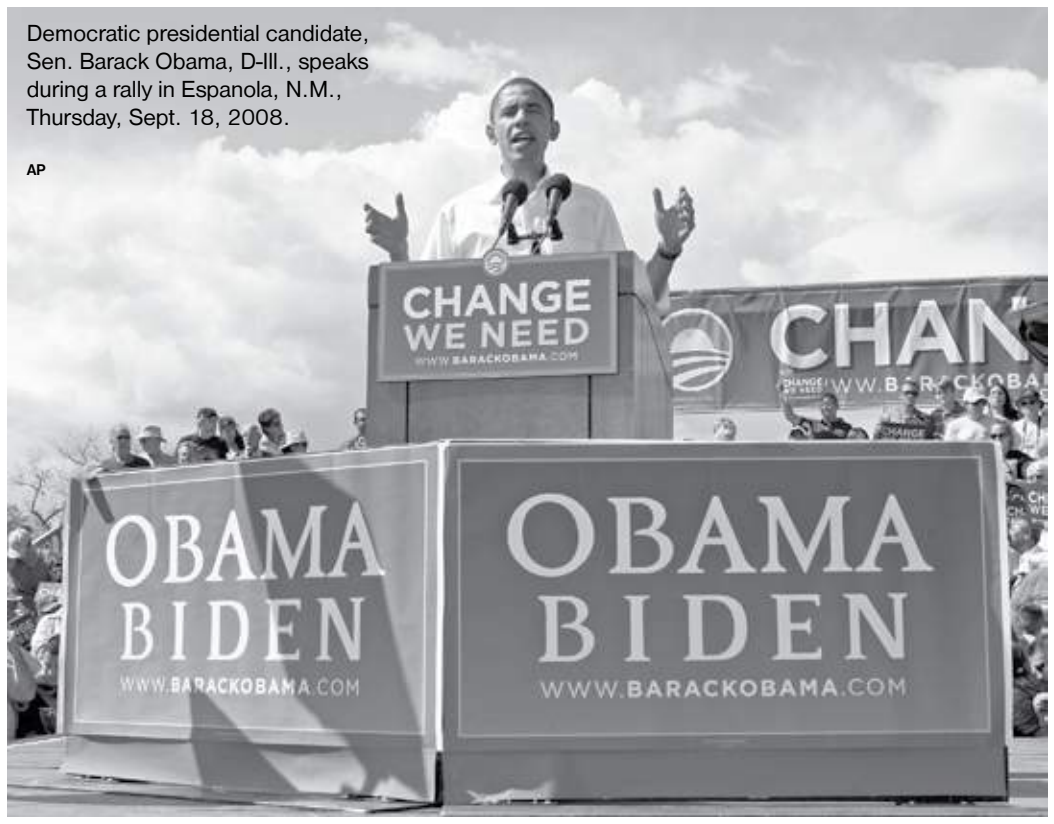
"Don't just get rid of one guy. Get rid of this administration," he said. "Get rid of this philosophy. Get rid of the do-nothing approach to our economic problem and put somebody in there who's going to fight for you."

Obama came up with yet another way to poke fun at McCain for his comment Monday that the fundamentals of the economy were strong. "This comment was so out of touch that even George Bush's White House couldn't agree with it when they were asked about it. They had to distance themselves from John McCain."

President Bush has used the same language many times but his press secretary would not repeat the line Wednesday in the face of historic financial turbulence.

With the economy rocketing to the front of the campaign agenda, Obama said he would unveil new proposals Friday in Florida. Senior members of his economic team were flying to Miami to meet with Obama before his announcement.

Obama also had telephone discussions Thursday about the financial markets with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former Fed chief Paul Volcker and former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers.



Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., speaks during a rally in Espanola, N.M., Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008.

AP

Summers and former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin were among those expected in Florida for Friday's meeting. Billionaire investor Warren Buffett and former Bush administration Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill were to participate by telephone, along with O'Neill and others.

Obama's stop in northern New Mexico's Rio Arriba County was aimed at energizing the Hispanic vote, which is crucial for his hopes of carrying this state. New Mexico voted for George W. Bush in 2004 but Democrat John Kerry got 65 percent of the vote in Rio Arriba. The county is about 73 percent Hispanic and 12 percent Native American, according to the 2000 Census.

Gov. Bill Richardson, warming up the crowd in a community plaza, said the Hispanic vote in tossup states Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada "is going to decide this election." Obama visited each of those states, along with California, on his Western swing and then was heading to Florida for two days of campaigning. He ended the day at an Albuquerque fundraiser that hosts said raised more than $1.7 million.

Palin's husband refuses to testify in probe

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's husband has refused to testify in the investigation of his wife's alleged abuse of power, and key lawmakers said Thursday that uncooperative witnesses are effectively sidetracking the probe until after Election Day.

Todd Palin, who participates in state business in person or by e-mail, was among 13 people subpoenaed by the Alaska Legislature. Palin's lawyer sent a letter to the lead investigator saying Palin objected to the probe and would not appear to testify on Friday.

"The objections boil down to the fact that the Legislative Council investigation is no longer a legitimate investigation because it has been subjected to complete partisanship and does not operate with the authority that it had at the time of its initial authorization," McCain-Palin presidential campaign spokesman Ed O'Callaghan said.

Sarah Palin initially welcomed the bipartisan investigation into accusations that she dismissed the state's public safety commissioner because he refused to fire her ex-brother-in-law, a state trooper. "Hold me accountable," she said.

But she has increasingly opposed it since Republican presidential candidate John McCain tapped her as his running mate. The McCain campaign dispatched a legal team to Alaska including O'Callaghan, a former top U.S. terrorism prosecutor from New York to bolster Palin's local lawyer.

In the letter, Palin attorney Thomas Van Flein lists nine objections to the Legislature's investigation into Gov. Palin. Van Flein also argues the subpoena is "unduly burdensome" because Palin has travel plans that require him to be out of the state.

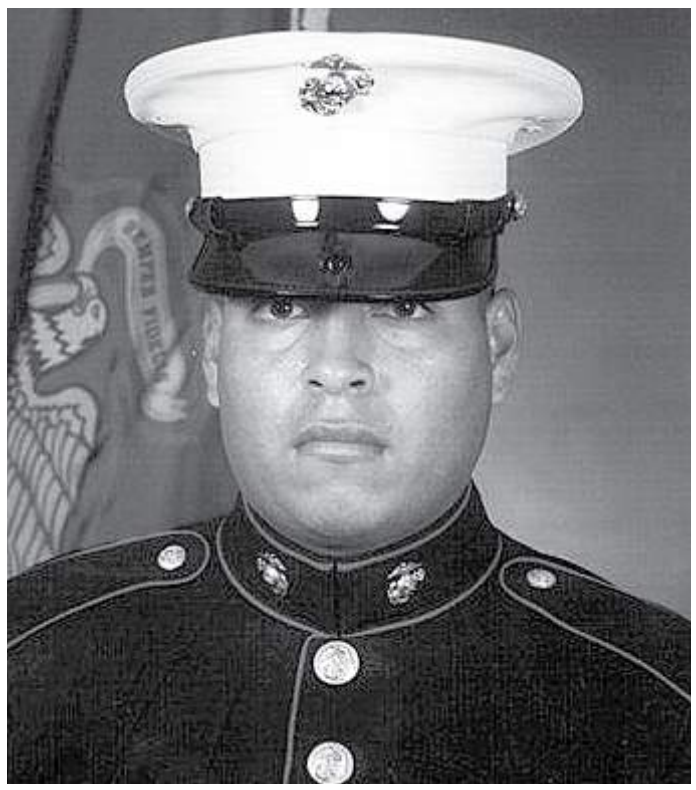
Mother to ask Congress to award son Medal of Honor

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP)—The mother of a Marine who witnesses say covered a grenade with his body to save comrades in Iraq plans to appeal to Congress to award her son the nation's highest military honor after learning it was denied by Defense Secretary Robert Gates because of questions about his final act.

Rosa Peralta said Thursday she made the decision after a Marine general told her that her son, Sgt. Rafael Peralta, would be awarded the Navy Cross rather than the Medal of Honor because the nomination was tainted by reports he was accidentally shot by a fellow Marine shortly before an insurgent lobbed the grenade.

"I'm going to see what can be done, because I'm not satisfied with what they want to do now," she said in Spanish.

President Bush singled out the Marine's actions in a 2005 Memorial Day speech, saying Peralta "understood that America faces dangerous enemies, and he knew the sacrifices required to defeat them."



AP

This undated photo released by the U.S. Marines, shows Sgt. Rafael Peralta, 25. Peralta was being considered for a posthumous Medal of Honor, the United States' highest military award.

Galveston still too bruised for residents' return

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—There's a grocery store open for business on Galveston Island. Cell phone towers are connecting calls. More lights are coming back on at night.

But for all the little signs of recovery in this barrier island community thrashed by Hurricane Ike nearly a week ago, Galveston just "isn't ready" for residents to return. Not even for a quick look around at their battered homes and businesses, officials said Thursday as they pleaded for tens of thousands to wait at least another week before trying to come home.

"By staying away and being patient, you are making it possible for us to get you home in a week or so, instead of the months it would take if the city's infrastructure were more overwhelmed at this point," Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas said.

The roughly 45,000 people who fled Galveston Island are among the more than 1 million who evacuated the Texas coast as Ike steamed across the Gulf of Mexico. Gov. Rick Perry said 22,000 people are still living in more than 200 shelters, and he joined Thomas on Thursday in asking for patience.

"I absolutely understand they want to get back to their homes ... I'd like to get back to the mansion," said Perry, who moved into temporary quarters about a year ago for renovations to his official residence, which then took heavy damage from a fire in June.

Galveston Island remained closed, as did the worse-off Bolivar Peninsula, where the storm's surge washed entire neighborhoods into the sea. Search teams pulled out of both areas this week after sweeping every house, authorities said.

Calif. regulators ban cell use by train operators

LOS ANGELES (AP)—California regulators reacting to the deadly wreck of a commuter train issued an emergency order Thursday banning train operators from using cell phones on duty.

The Public Utilities Commission's unanimous decision to pass the temporary order came a day after investigators confirmed that the engineer of the Metrolink commuter train was text-messaging while on duty on the day the train ran a red light and collided head-on with a Union Pacific freight train. Last week's wreck in Los Angeles killed 25 people, including the engineer, and injured more than 130.

Some railroads—including Metrolink—prohibit operators from using cell phones on the job, but the commission's president, Michael R. Peevey, has said the rules are widely ignored. There is no federal regulation of cell-phone use by railroad workers and until Thursday there had been no California rules.

Richard Clark, the commission's director of consumer protection and safety, said the use of cell phones was "implicated" in two earlier accidents this year involving other rail systems, but he declined to comment on its specific role in either case until the investigations are completed.

Under the new order the board approved in San Francisco, violators could be fined up to $20,000 per violation or have their operations shut down.

"Today's action will protect the public," Peevey said. "What we're doing today is just a modest first step in a much larger effort to improve railroad safety."

The National Transportation Safety Board requested the cell phone records of engineer Robert Sanchez after two teenage train fans said they exchanged text messages with him shortly before the crash Friday in the San Fernando Valley neighborhood of Chatsworth.

Asia

North Korea is preparing to restart nuclear facility

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP)—North Korea has stopped disabling its nuclear reactor in Yongbyon and is now undertaking "thorough preparations" to restart it, a diplomat from Pyongyang said Friday.

North Korea stopped disabling the Yongbyon complex as previously agreed to because the U.S. has not kept its end of a disarmament-for-aid deal, Hyun Hak Bong told reporters at the border.

"We are making thorough preparations to restart" the facility, he said. He did not say when it would be running again.

The White House had no immediate reaction on the North Korean plans.

The landmark 2007 pact - made with the United States, China, South Korea, Russia and Japan - called on Pyongyang to give up and disable its nuclear program in exchange for the equivalent of 1 million tons of energy aid.

North Korea began disabling the complex last year, and the process was 90 percent complete, Hyun said.

South Korean officials say the North completed eight of 11 key disablement measures at Yongbyon, but have received only half the promised international energy aid.

The accord ran aground in mid-August when Washington failed to take North Korea off its list of states that sponsor terrorism. The U.S. has refused to change that status until North Korea agrees to an international plan to verify a declaration of its nuclear programs submitted in June.

North Korea responded by halting the disabling process and is now "proceeding with works to restore (Yongbyon) to its original status," Hyun told reporters.

113 SUMMERS YOUNG AP

Tomoji Tanabe, left, the world's oldest man is congratulated by Miyakonojo Mayor Makoto Nagamine on his 113th birthday Thursday at his home in Miyakonojo on Japan's southern island of Kyushu Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008.

Chinese parents seek answers on tainted baby milk

SHIJIAZHUANG, China (AP)—Hundreds of Chinese parents, some cradling infants, converged on the company at the heart of the tainted baby formula scandal Thursday, demanding refunds and asking what they can safely feed their children.

Thousands of others filled hospitals, many hovering over sons and daughters hooked to IVs after drinking milk powder tainted with melamine, a toxic industrial chemical that can cause kidney stones and lead to kidney failure.

The scandal highlights the changing family dynamics and economic growth in China. A generation ago, women had little choice besides breast-feeding. Now, supermarkets are filled with dozens of brands of baby formula, marketed to women who work outside the home after they give birth.

Yao Haoge, an 11-month-old baby with two large kidney stones, had been drinking Sanlu formula since she was born because both of her parents work. They had been puzzled by their little girl's fevers and dark urine, but it never occurred to them that she had kidney stones brought on by her formula.

Now, like many of the babies at the Peace Hospital in Shijiazhuang, Haoge has an IV drip hooked into a vein in her head.

Pakistan: No compromise on US cross-border strikes

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's prime minister said Thursday that strikes by foreign forces were "counterproductive," as officials said there was no warning about the latest U.S. missile strike in the Pakistani northwest.

Meanwhile, militants briefly seized 300 boys at a school in northwest Pakistan on Thursday, police said. The incident ended with the deaths of two suicide bombers; no children were harmed.

The missile strike Wednesday was part of a surge in U.S. cross-border operations, and it was especially galling to Pakistanis because it came the same day an American military leader assured the nation's leaders the U.S. respects Pakistan's sovereignty.

Pakistan's civilian leaders stressed diplomacy to resolve the mounting tensions with an anti-terror ally that has given the Muslim nation billions of dollars in aid.

In his statement, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani did not specifically mention Wednesday's missile strike, though he spoke generally of strikes by foreign forces as being "counterproductive."

"The U.S. government has been clearly told that there would be no compromise on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan," he said.

World

Yemen's al-Qaida hard to extract

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—The deadly attack on the U.S. Embassy may be a watershed moment in Yemen's on-and-off struggle with terrorism.

For years, the Yemeni government has let some al-Qaida figures and other Islamic extremists go free in political deals hoping to keep them quiet. Now it finds itself having to confront a new generation of militants - younger, more radical and fresh from fighting in Iraq.

Wednesday's assault on the gate of the U.S. Embassy by a half dozen gunmen and two vehicles packed with explosives killed 17 people, including six militants, and was the closest extremists have come to penetrating the grounds of the low-slung building in several attempts.

After the bloodshed, police rounded up 25 suspected militants with ties to al-Qaida, and an FBI team headed here to join the investigation. There was no claim of responsibility and authorities had not pinpointed any suspects Thursday, but suspicion focused on Osama bin Laden's terror network.

Many Yemenis saw the operation as more than just an assault on the American presence, but part of a new al-Qaida war on Yemen's government.

Several Yemeni security officials told The Associated Press they had seen a return of militants from Iraq's insurgency and believe they have been involved in recent attacks on tourists, foreign companies and oil facilities. The officials agreed to discuss the situation only if not quoted by name because they weren't authorized to speak with journalists.

Some people said the violence should make the government reassess its strategy.

"A hot and cold policy doesn't work anymore," said Mohammed Abulahoum, head of foreign relations for the ruling General People's Congress party. "A clear-cut strategy has to be worked out. We are probably looking at the tip of the iceberg with these incidents."

American officials long have been frustrated over what is seen as a "revolving door" policy toward al-Qaida militants by President Ali Abdullah Saleh's government. Yemen has let some convicted militants go free for promising to refrain from violence, and in several cases Washington has stepped in to press for particular extremists to be kept in custody.

US soldier gets 7-month sentence in Iraq killings

VILSECK, Germany (AP)—A U.S. soldier pleaded guilty to conspiracy to murder and was sentenced to seven months in prison Thursday in the deaths of four Iraqis, saying he stood guard from a machine-gun turret while the bound men were shot.

The relatively lenient sentence for Spc. Belmor Ramos was part of a deal that will see him testify against others alleged to have been involved in the killings last year.

The four unidentified Iraqi men were bound, blindfolded, shot in the head and dumped in a Baghdad canal between 10 March and 16 April 2007 - killings prosecutors said were in retribution for casualties in Ramos' unit at the time.

Ramos, of Clearfield, Utah, told a judge at his court martial that he stood guard as the men were killed. In the stark Rose Barracks courtroom, the 23-year-old testified he didn't have to go along with the others, but that he wanted to.

"I wanted them dead. I had no legal justification or excuse to do this," Ramos said in a soft but steady voice.

Ramos testified he stood watch from the machine-gun turret of his Humvee when others carried out the killings. He said he heard the shots, but did not personally witness the deaths.

Ramos had faced a possible sentence of life in prison for conspiracy to commit murder.

Judge Lt. Col. Edward O'Brien said that, had it not been for the plea agreement, he would have sentenced Ramos to 40 years in prison. Ramos will also have his rank reduced to private and be dishonorably discharged from the army.

The native of Chile, who moved to Utah at age 10 and became a U.S. citizen in 2006, could also lose his citizenship because of the verdict, and face deportation.

"We are a country that believes in free will, but we must show personal courage to do the right thing," said prosecutor Capt. Derrick Grace.

"A message must be sent to those who might want to be the judge, jury, and as in this case, the executioner, all at once."

WORLD BRIEFS

Ultra-Orthodox party emerging as Israel kingmaker

JERUSALEM (AP)—An ultra-Orthodox Jewish party run by an octogenarian rabbi who has said Hurricane Katrina was divine punishment emerged Thursday as the kingmaker in forming the next Israeli government. Having won a fight to be leader of the ruling Kadima Party, Tzipi Livni now will likely need Shas as a partner to become prime minister. But Shas opposes any compromise on Jerusalem, and including it in a coalition could tie her hands in peace talks with the Palestinians. Livni's narrow victory in a party primary Wednesday to replace corruption-tainted Prime Minister Ehud Olmert as Kadima's chairman means she can become prime minister if she can put together a coalition government of her own. Livni, now the foreign minister, has said she would like to keep the current four-party coalition intact. Two of Kadima's partners, Labor and the Pensioners, aren't expected to balk. But Shas and its spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, are wild cards.

100s of new creatures found on Australian reefs

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Marine scientists have discovered hundreds of new animal species on reefs in Australian waters, including brilliant soft corals and tiny crustaceans, according to findings released Thursday. The creatures were found during expeditions run by the Australian chapter of CReefs, a global census of coral reefs that is one of several projects of the Census of Marine Life, an international effort to catalog all life in the oceans. "People have been working at these places for a long time and still there are literally hundreds and hundreds of new species that no one has ever collected or described," said Julian Caley, a scientist from the Australian Institute of Marine Science who is helping to lead the research. "So in that sense, it's very significant in that if we don't understand what biodiversity is out there, we don't have much of a chance of protecting it," he said. Scientists at several Australian museums have begun the complex process of working with the samples for genetic barcoding and taxonomy, the formal system of naming living things. That work is expected to take years, Caley said.

US: Malfunction likely cause of Iraq chopper crash

BAGHDAD (AP)—A U.S. military official said a mechanical problem appeared to be the reason for a helicopter crash Thursday that killed seven American soldiers in Iraq's southern desert, the deadliest such incident in Iraq in more than a year. The CH-47 Chinook was flying with three other choppers from Kuwait when it went down shortly after midnight about 60 miles west of Basra, the military said. The U.S. military relies heavily on helicopters to ferry troops, dignitaries and supplies to avoid the threat of ambushes and roadside bombs, and Thursday's crash highlighted the non-combat dangers facing Americans in Iraq.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, September 19, 2008

Carmelita Dimzon is new OWWA chief

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

BAHRAIN—A new administrator for the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration has been named and the incoming head herself has confirmed this to INQUIRER.net.

Carmelita Dimzon, deputy administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, has replaced now Labor Secretary Marianito Roque as OWWA head.

In a text message, Dimzon herself confirmed having received her appointment papers and take her oath before Roque at 4 p.m. this Thursday.

Various migrant workers rights groups have lobbied for the appointment of someone from their ranks, saying there is a need for someone who understands the plight of the overseas Filipino workers, competent at running such an office, and who has integrity.

They opposed the rumored appointment of former congressman Prospero Pichay as OWWA chief who will, among others, manage the P10-billion OWWA fund. (Pichay has since been appointed head of the Local Waterworks Utilities Administration.)

There has been movement at the labor department and the agencies under it after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo appointed then labor secretary Arturo Brion associate justice of the Supreme Court.

Roque was then tapped to take the labor portfolio, leaving the top post at OWWA vacant.

A couple of weeks ago, POEA chief Rosalinda Baldoz was promoted labor undersecretary. Lawyer Jennifer Manalili was then appointed to head POEA.

OWWA and POEA are the twin government agencies that directly deal with OFWs around the world.

'Higher OFW remittances seen by yearend'

By MAILA AGER
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Despite the global economic crisis, the country can still expect higher remittances from overseas Filipino workers before the year ends, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo told the House of Representatives Wednesday.

From $14.4 billion in 2007, Romulo told the House appropriations committee that the remittances from about eight million OFWs might go up to $17 billion or $18 billion at the end of the year.

Romulo said the Department of Foreign Affairs also expected an increase of P7 billion from its consular earnings as a result of more OFWs getting machine readable passports.

He then asked Congress to allow the department to use 25 percent of its consular earnings, instead of the present 10 percent, for building fund.

The DFA is asking P11.9 billion budget for 2009, including P307 million for the hiring of 1,000 consular personnel.

In the same hearing, Romulo reported to the committee that there were 34 OFWs facing the death penalty, most of them in the Middle East. At least 10 are being tried for cases punishable by death while the cases of 13 others have been commuted.

Arroyo: Philippines to ride out global financial storm

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo expressed confidence Wednesday the Philippines will ride out the global financial market turmoil with its strong domestic economy bolstered by reforms.

The U.S. subprime mortage crisis has not significantly affected the Philippine banking system and domestic banks' exposure to bankrupt U.S. investment house Lehman Brothers and other ailing investment banks has been limited, central bank Gov. Amando Tetangco said at an economic forum organized by the government where Arroyo also spoke.

Arroyo

But Tetangco said moves by investors to avoid risks by staying away from emerging markets like the Philippines could adversely affect the growth of the local banking sector.

"The heights to which oil and other commodity prices have risen were unexpected and the depth of the financial market turbulence in the U.S. is still unknown," Arroyo said. "Against this backdrop, the best buffer we have to external vulnerability is our own domestic internal strength."

She said a 3-year-old tax reform has shored up funds for relief programs for the poor hurt by oil and food price spikes.

Even as oil and food prices ease up, she said the government will remain focused on reigning in inflation, lowering prices of basic commodities, raising investments to the poor, and continuing reforms to boost domestic consumption and less reliance on external markets.

AP

EXCHANGE RATE

A man writes the exchange rates for the U.S. dollar and Japanese yen on a signboard in Manila, Philippines, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008. The peso closed at a 16-month low of 47.20 pesos against the US dollar.

DFA: Ship with all-Filipino crew hijacked off Somalia

More than 70 Filipinos on 7 ships in pirate hands

By THEA ALBERTO
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Suspected Somali pirates hijacked a Greek-owned ship with an all-Filipino crew of 26, the Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed Thursday.

Undersecretary for migrant workers affairs Esteban Conejos Jr confirmed the hijacking of the Greek-owned, Maltese-flagged freighter MT Centauri and the taking hostage of its crew, DFA spokesman Claro Cristobal said in a text message.

Cristobal said all the 26 Filipinos are safe and unharmed.

"DFA has instructed the Philippine embassies in Athens and Nairobi to coordinate with the ship owners and international maritime authorities on efforts to secure the safe release of the crew members," he said.

The latest hijacking brings the number of Filipino seafarers held captive by Somali pirates to more than 70 on seven vessels. One Filipino died in an earlier hijacking when he was hit when pirates boarding his vessel fired warning shots.

The hijacking was first reported by Noel Choong, head of the Kuala Lumpur-based International Maritime Bureau's (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre, who said the vessel was attacked about 200 nautical miles from the Somali capital Mogadishu.

"The pirates attacked and boarded the ship, she was en route to Kenya with a crew of 25 [sic] on board. It happened at 0250 GMT, it appears the pirates are now targeting ships on the eastern side of Somalia," he told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

Pirates also seized another ship off the Somali coast in the Indian Ocean, a maritime official said.

? LABOR FRONT

How to file an appeal to Labor Secretary

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: How can an employer or an alien worker appeal a Labor administrative hearing office's order to the Labor Secretary?

A: An employer or an alien worker can commence an appeal to the Labor Secretary by filing a notice of appeal on the standard form provided by Labor and paying the corresponding fee. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, a notice of appeal must be filed within 15 days of service of the decision on the party who is appealing. The party who seeks relief from the Secretary is called the appellant. The party against whom relief is sought is called the appellee.

■ ■ ■

Q: Does the Labor Secretary need to conduct a hearing on an appeal?

A: No. The Regulations state that when the Labor Secretary is exercising jurisdiction over appeals from final orders of the Labor Administrative Hearing Office, the Secretary shall have all the powers and responsibilities of a hearing officer. No hearing or oral argument on an appeal is required. The Secretary will notify the parties by mail of the time and place for any hearing on the appeal. The Secretary will not schedule the hearing with less than 15 days notice or change a hearing date with less than 15 days notice.

■ ■ ■

Q: Upon completion of review on the appeal, what is expected from the Labor Secretary?

A: In a review on appeal, the Secretary may restrict review to the existing record, supplement the record with new evidence and hear oral argument. Upon completion of review, the Regulations require that the Secretary shall affirm, reverse, or modify the findings, decision, or order of the hearing officer. The Secretary may also remand under appropriate instructions all or part of the matter to the Administrative Hearing Office for further proceedings.

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7 RP banks have $386M in exposure to Lehman

By DORIS DUMLAO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Seven banks in the Philippines have a total of $386 million in exposure to bankrupt US investment banking giant Lehman Brothers, according to the central bank's estimates, but the banking system is widely believed to be in a good position to withstand the world's worst financial shake-out.

Even assuming zero recovery of their exposure to Lehman, the fallout for the seven banks is not expected to exceed one percent of their total assets.

According to estimates by the central bank, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), obtained by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the retail tycoon Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Unibank has the biggest exposure to Lehman at $134 million, followed by state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) at $90 million.

The BSP data show Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. (Metrobank) has an exposure of $71 million, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) $40 million, Standard Chartered Bank's Manila branch $26 million, Bank of Commerce $15 million, and United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) $10 million.

As a percentage of total assets of the individual banks, the exposures are as low as 0.5 percent and as high as 1.7 percent, according to the estimates, which were discussed at a meeting of the BSP policymaking body, the Monetary Board, on Thursday.

Banco de Oro, Metrobank and RCBC reported earlier this week that they had made provisions for their soured exposures to Lehman.

The BSP data show Banco de Oro had set aside a buffer equivalent to 60 percent of its exposure and Metrobank and RCBC had provided for 70 percent and 52 percent of their exposures, respectively.

AP
The statue of the late Senator Benigno Aquino, left, is seen as an electronic board flashes figures during the trading day at the Philippine Stock Exchange Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008 in Manila's financial district of Makati.

DBP has put up a provision of about P3 billion for its exposure to Lehman, its spokesperson said. "So we are fully provided for," the DBP spokesperson said. "Of our exposure, $10 million represents debt papers issued by Bank of America and arranged by Lehman, while $80 million represents notes issued by a local subsidiary of Lehman."

Bank of Commerce president Raul de Mesa said the bank's exposure was fully provided for. "There's no impact on earnings this year. We'll equal or hopefully make better than last year's net income of P520 million," he said last night.

Philippine Daily Inquirer sources said UCPB, a government-sequestered bank, would provide for 100 percent of its exposure to Lehman.

No cause for concern

Credit watchers and private analysts agree with the BSP pronouncement that the Philippine banks' exposure to Lehman was no cause for concern.

The potential cost to Philippine banks is estimated to be much lower than that in the more sophisticated Asian countries like Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

Exposure to Lehman by financial systems in South Korea and Taiwan are estimated at $720 million and $2.5 billion, respectively.

Global credit watchdog Standard & Poor's said Thursday the direct exposures of banks in Asian emerging markets to Lehman were not expected to be significant enough to cause a downgrade in credit ratings.

"The US situation is going to impact around the world but the Philippine economy stands on solid footing," Kenney said.

With a report from Cynthia D. Balana; with editing by INQUIRER.net

Peso rises to 46.96:$1 as RP stock index rebounds

By ELIZABETH SANCHEZ-LACSON, DORIS DUMLAO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine shares rebounded Friday on bargain-hunting and on positive news of a possible U.S. government plan to rescue banks from bad mortgage debts.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 110.42 points or 4.7 percent, closing at 2,462.79 points following a 4.3 percent tumble on Thursday.

"What is pushing the market is ... bargain-hunting," said Emmanuel Soller, a broker at Equity World Securities Inc.

News of the U.S. government's plan to rescue ailing banks also helped lift shares, he added.

The peso hit a low of 47.29 to the dollar on weak regional markets before closing at 46.96, up slightly from Wednesday's finish of 47.08.

Soller said the market is still in consolidation, with a strong downside bias as information on the full impact of the U.S. financial crisis on the Philippines remains unknown.

The Asian Development Bank warned Thursday that Asia's banks remain at risk from the U.S. financial turmoil even if the region's losses from the sub-prime crisis are lower than elsewhere.

Philippine stocks Thursday plunged to their lowest in nearly two-and-a-half months as the bloodbath on Wall Street continued to scare investors around the globe.

Napocor chief resigns, cites 'health reasons'

By JOEL GUINTO, ABIGAIL L. HO
INQUIRER.NET, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The heads of the National Power Corp. and the Philippine National Oil Co.-Alternative Fuel Corp. have resigned, officials said.

Press Secretary Jesus Dureza confirmed reports Friday that Cyril Del Callar, Napocor president, resigned but declined to elaborate.

"It's positive, he [Del Callar] resigned," Dureza said.

Earlier on Friday, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said in a telephone interview that he has a copy of Del Callar's resignation letter.

"Yes, I am confirming. I have a copy of his resignation letter," Reyes said.

Del Callar cited "health reasons" for his resignation in a letter he submitted to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo dated September 8.

Asked about Del Callar's replacement, Reyes said Malacañang should be the one to make that announcement.

Since Wednesday morning, talk about Del Callar's resignation had been going around the industry grapevine, with his successor said to be Froilan Tampinco, Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. vice president for asset management and electricity trading.

Reached for comment, Tampinco said he would rather not say anything since "nothing is official yet."

Peter Abaya, chairman of the Philippine National Oil Co.-Alternative Fuel Corp. also resigned, similarly citing health reasons, Reyes said in a budget hearing at the House of Representatives Friday.

Reyes said he received Abaya's resignation letter last week.

Philippine troops kill seven Muslim rebels

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Army troops backed by rocket-firing helicopters killed seven Muslim guerrillas in a clash and seized an abandoned rebel training camp in separate victories in a monthlong offensive in the southern Philippines, the military said Thursday.

Government forces have been hunting three commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front who attacked several predominantly Christian communities after negotiations on an expanded Muslim homeland stalled last month. The bloody clashes have left Malaysian-brokered peace talks in tatters.

In the latest fighting, more than 100 guerrillas opened fire Wednesday on dozens of soldiers who advanced toward a rebel mountain stronghold near Calanogas township in Lanao del Sur province, killing a soldier and wounding eight others, regional army spokesman Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico said.

The outnumbered troops sought support from army artillery and air force helicopter gunships. At least seven rebels were killed and many more were wounded in the 45-minute clash, Adriatico said, citing intercepted rebel radio communications.

The guerrillas retreated toward a forest and were being pursued by troops, he said.

"They are running out of space to run and hide," Adriatico said by telephone, referring to the three wanted commanders, Abdullah Macapaar, Aleem Sulaiman Pangalian and Umbra Kato.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Air Force officer found dead in Villamor quarters

MANILA, Philippines—An active Air Force colonel was found dead inside his room Friday morning at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, police said. Senior Superintendent Marietto Valerio, chief of police, identified the victim as Colonel Miguel Gequillo Gialogo of the Philippine Air Force. Gialogo's body was discovered at 9:30 a.m. inside Room 18 on the second floor of the Married Officers Quarters on Soriano Street. Valerio said his men were still investigating if Gialogo's death was due to natural causes or if there was foul play involved. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Nationwide protest set Monday for more oil price rollbacks

MANILA, Philippines—A nationwide protest will be held this Monday to demand more oil price rollbacks, an official of a transport group spearheading the mass action announced Friday. George San Mateo, secretary general of the Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Operaytor Nationwide (PISTON), said this would be a prelude to a possible transport strike if the "Big 3" oil companies, referring to Pilipinas Shell, Petron Corp. and Chevron, would not lower their prices by at least P37 per liter, amid the continued decline of crude prices in the world market. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Cops not ruling out foul play in death of 90-year-old widow

MANILA, Philippines—Police investigators have not ruled out foul play in the death of a 90-year-old woman found inside her home with a head wound Wednesday afternoon in Quezon City. Police Officer 2 Joseph Diño of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (QCPD-CIDU) said he is still waiting for the report on the autopsy done on Biao Chan, a widow from Fookien, China, who was founded dead in her bedroom at 38-B P. Florentino Street, Barangay (village) Lourdes, Sta. Mesa Heights. Diño said Chan had a deep gash on the side of the head and a black eye. He said the victim was found by her son Lian Uy Tia around 12:30 p.m. Wednesday lying on her side in a pool of her own blood. The QCPD-CIDU investigator said he has ruled out robbery since all of Chan's jewelry and other belongings appeared intact even as an inspection of the house revealed an open window through which an intruder may have gained access. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

MISS EARTH AP

Miss Earth 2007 Jessica Nicole Trisko from Vancouver, Canada, center, poses beside, from left, Miss Philippines-Fire 2008 Ma. Kristelle Lazaro, Miss Philippines-Air 2008 Marie Razel Equia, Miss Philippines Earth 2008 Karla Paula Henry and Miss Philippines-Water 2008 Marian Michelle Oblea as they meet reporters in Manila on Tuesday Sept. 16, 2008. Miss Earth 2008 will culminate on Nov. 9 in Pampanga province, northern Philippines.

3 armed men killed in shootout in Iloilo—police

ILOILO CITY -- Three armed men died in an alleged shootout with intelligence police operatives at a gasoline station in Iloilo City Wednesday night, a police official said Thursday. Senior Superintendent Bartolome Tobias, acting Iloilo City police chief, said the shootout occurred around 10:30 p.m. at the corner of Jalandoni and Delgado streets after members of the Philippine National Police Regional Intelligence Office met by chance the three armed men. The shootout began when the armed men fired upon the policemen who accosted them, Tobias said. The police recovered a hand grenade, two handguns, and other ammunition from the suspects. Tobias said the police have yet to determine if the armed men were part of a group that had been robbing gasoline stations. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Godbrother eyed in slay of midwife in Cavite

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna, Philippines—A midwife was found soaked in her own blood inside the bathroom of her house in Silang town, Cavite Thursday morning, police said. Chief Inspector Christopher Olazo, Silang police chief, said in a phone interview that Aida Montevirgen, 34, was stabbed to death in her house in the village of Anahaw 1 on Wednesday night. He said police are now holding suspect Romeo Navarro, 21, the victim's godbrother. Olazo said Montevirgen's neighbors witnessed Navarro enter the house. They then heard shouting and commotion inside the house, he added. Police investigators also noticed that there were no signs of forced entry. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

$$$ PERSONAL FINANCE

Simple ways to keep your money safe

By MA. SALVE DUPLITO
INQUIRER.NET

One of man's natural instincts is to dive for cover when threatened. This is why when times are hard and financial markets are troubled, people scramble for ways to keep their money safe.

Ask those who have seen their stock investments lose 26 percent of their holdings since the start of the year. Or those who bought or earned their dollars at P55 and are now faced with a P46 to the dollar exchange rate.

They don't even have to be the ones to feel the pain. Seeing friends and family lose money also puts would-be investors in a kind of paralysis.

Some say this may be the time to rediscover the uncomplicated beauty of cash. Only few market contrarians can commit what could now be sharply depleted portfolios, so the bigger part of the herd are likely looking for relatively safe perches on the sidelines.

Options for "safe" cash investments are fairly straightforward. Time deposits and special deposit accounts in banks offer convenience, easy access and -– the most attractive perk of all –– a deposit insurance of up to P250,000. Money market funds sold by mutual fund companies and banks are not guaranteed by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. but offer slightly better returns than a bank deposit and are now the darling of many liquidity-addicted savers. Treasury bills are also considered safe, short-term investments because of the almost nil risk of default, but if you need to sell them before they mature, you may not be able to get the same amount that you bought them for because prices and yields move in opposite directions.

Finding best deals

How to find the best deals? Since there is no single source of information on savings account rates, you have to go from bank to bank. For money market placements in banks, go to the website http://www.uitf.com.ph and for money market placements in mutual funds, go to http://www.icap.com.ph. Make sure you ask about fees because these erode whatever returns you might get. Management fees of different bank money market funds, for example, range from 0.5 percent to 2 percent.

Cash and near-cash placements, however, have few fans in general among financial planners or investment experts, mainly because they don't protect against a silent tax –– inflation. With inflation hitting a near 17-year high of 12.5 percent in August , an annual return of 4 percent for special deposit accounts looks pitiful. Time deposit rates are even much lower.

"Is your money in the bank really safe? Safety means your money is growing faster than inflation," says Ben P. Pañares, chief operating officer of Sun Life Asset Management Co., Inc.

Pañares has barely warmed his seat at SLAMC having been hired only a month ago but he's an old hand in the investment industry, having cut his teeth back in the 1990s in the US in Bank of America. He says that studies in behavioral finance show that most people get carried away by each little noise in the bushes.

"With all our degrees and education, we will not act rationally when it comes to investments. If we are in a forest with dinosaurs and we hear a growl, we run and hide instead of finding out first if the dinosaur is a plant-eater or a flesh-eater," he says.

Staying the course even when the market goes topsy-turvy can be a good strategy for investors who want to avoid getting creamed by inflation. "You should always have some cash, of course, and our money market funds answer that particular need, but the truth is market timing is only 8 percent of portfolio return. The rest is diversification and asset allocation. We really shouldn't be worried about the ups and downs of the market. It's inflation we should be worried about," Pañares explains.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas managing director Johnny Noe Ravalo says inflation hits everything, from cash holdings to bonds to stocks, in varying degrees.

"Inflation is not so silent anymore and it hits everybody across the board. TIPS (Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities) in the US protect investors from inflation, but we don't have that here. There is nothing out there to protect us from inflation, but only ways to minimize the effects," says Ravalo.

No magic formula

Ravalo warns against people peddling silver bullets and catchall solutions to keeping your money safe. "There is really no golden promise; no magic formula. There are unlimited options, but doing this successfully means you have to understand two things: whether you are trying to protect your principal or you are investing for the future," he says.

If you're in the protecting-your-principal stage, you are really talking about pure savings. If you need your money in the next three to six months, for example, get out of the market. Same with the investments of those who are already about to retire. But if you have five, 10 to 30 years to grow your money, you can opt to risk a little bit more in the hope of a little bit more return.

"Knowing where you are tells you what options to take. If you have an investment horizon of five to 10 years, there's really no sense in panicking every day when the peso goes 10 centavos up or down," says Ravalo.

Both Ravalo and Pañares stress that the choice of investment manager or financial institution is a big component of keeping your money safe. Peñares says different funds handle their portfolio differently, and some people may opt for less spectacular returns for more stability and consistency. "Sun Life, for example, will not take added risk for only incremental return," he says.

"The first line of defense really is to cap your greed. Deal only with trusted, accredited, regulated institutions that have proven track record," says Ravalo. "Consistent high returns do not happen in the financial market without consequences. You may hit a jackpot once, tsamba ka, but it is not possible to do it everyday," he adds.

Don't ask for trouble by chasing after returns. This has often resulted in massive losses, as in the case of Multitel, Francswiss, Deutchfrancs and Performance Investments Products Corp. (PIPC) pyramid scams. Investors were made to believe their money were safe and would yield consistent spectacular returns at the same time.

Barring investments in such scams means you have to learn to divvy up your portfolio among different trusted investment instruments—an art that's called asset allocation among finance professionals. Sun Life's Peñares says asset allocation and diversification is also a trusted strategy in keeping money safe.

"Different kinds of investments will act differently and putting your money in various baskets protects you from getting hit all at once by a market turbulence," he says.

If these all get too complicated for comfort and you are tempted to hide your money under the covers, consider that 10 years from now, many of us might be wondering what the fuss was all about in 2008, something that happens every time the market bounces back from its lows.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Actress, TV host and former beauty queen Charlene Gonzalez.

Charlene judges UAE dance competition

By QUAY EVANO
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Actress, TV host and former beauty queen Charlene Gonzalez was in the United Arab Emirates to witness fellow Filipino dancers strut, shake, jump, sway and do everything imaginable and creative on the dance floor for the second Inter-GCC Ballroom Dance Competition organized by the Filipino Dance Club-Dubai.

The dance competition was held at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Deira, Dubai on August 29. Gonzalez, also an acclaimed dancer, was chairperson of the board of judges during the contest along with Kashif, a Pakistani businessman and major sponsor of the event, Ahlia Mohammad, a professional dancer from Mongolia and Mario Mira and Lirin Mosquera, two Latin ballroom dancers from the Dubai-based dance organization Piso Caliente.

Five pairs competed for the much-awaited ballroom dance competition in the Middle East -- two pairs from Dubai, one pair from Abu Dhabi, one pair from Bahrain and another pair from Kuwait.

Dubai pair Aika Apacible and Jay Bauzon topped the competition with a total score of 98.06 percent. The first runner up was the other pair from Dubai, Lee Olvido and Lesly Bautista while the second runner up was the pair from Kuwait, Aaron Pilola and Blance Bravo.

The officers of the Filipino Dance Club-Dubai had decided early this year to bring back the Inter-GCC competition after a long six-year hiatus.

Although at first, there were some contestants that would be coming from other Gulf countries like Oman and Qatar, only the Filipino dance clubs in Kuwait and Bahrain were able to send representatives.

The whole evening affair was also a celebration of the club's 12th Year Anniversary, Graduation Party of Batch 47 of Basic Ballroom Dance Clinic Students and the swearing in of the newly-elected officers.

The Filipino Dance Club-Dubai is one of the first and oldest Filipino organizations in the UAE and the Middle East and has become one of the biggest in membership so far.

Sunshine and Cesar kiss and make up

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Sunshine Cruz and Cesar Montano have kissed and made up. The couple's recent trip to the US served as their ninth wedding anniversary celebration.

"We partied in four different places in one night and had wine tasting in Napa valley," Shine said. "For the first time I felt like a party animal!"

What has she realized after their temporary separation? "Only Buboy and I can fix or ruin our relationship."

The domestic front of the Montanos has ceased to be a battlefront.

Guess list

■ An actor and a pretty young thing stepped out of the men's room in a bar. The actor's celeb GF wasn't around. Did the PYT enter by mistake or was she stalking the actor? An eyewitness insists that they looked dazed. Did they turn the toilet into a (too close for) comfort room?

■ A young actress was caught by a security guard in a compromising position with a student inside a car at a university's parking lot. YA paid off the guard to keep his mouth shut after she was spotted with her mouth wide open.

■ While waiting for her cue, a TV host turned to her actress guest, "I like your shoes. But you should have cleaned your toenails!" The actress was stunned. Before she could react, the show began. Lights, camera, tension!

Skin deep?

"People should look beyond the packaging instead of judging me based on my looks alone," Zanjoe Marudo says about how he feels when hunks like him are labeled as all fluff and no substance.

The model-turned actor top-bills ABS-CBN's "Varga," plays one of Anne Curtis' leading men in "Dyosa" and will soon be paired with Roxanne Guinoo in "Florinda."

Most shocking thing he has learned about show biz? "Ang buhay celebrity ay di pala 100 percent masarap." But an eye candy like himself will always be a yummy delight on screen.

Simple girl

Angel Locsin is having the time of her life shooting with Piolo Pascual in Bukidnon. "Nakapagpatumba siya ng baka sa shooting," her manager Becky Aguila says. "May pic siya pinadala sa MMS na puno siya ng putik and yet all smiles pa din siya. Simple girl talaga si Gel. Kaya niyang mabuhay sa bukid."

Sunshine Cruz and Cesar Montano

Ultimate 'love trip'

"I.T.A.L.Y. (I Trust And Love You)," which opens Sept. 17, was shot in three continents. Focusing on the life/love journey of six individuals on board Costa Magica and is a tribute to the unsung heroism of Pinoy overseas workers, the movie is top-billed by Jolina Magdangal, Rufa Mae Quinto, Dennis Trillo, Eugene Domingo, Rhian Ramos and Mark Herras.

Love has taken Rufa Mae's heart to places of joy and sadness but she has always given it her all. "Pag nagmahal ako, mahal ko hindi lang buong pagkatao ng BF ko," Pchi said. "Kundi pati buong angkan niya,"

Any turbulence in Jolen's love voyage? "When Bobong was still based in the US, mahirap 'yung long distance set-up," Jolens said. "I tease him na sana sa Venice kami ikasal kasi sarap ng feeling na Italians were clapping for me while I was roaming around in my wedding gown nung shooting."

"I.TA.L.Y." is the ultimate "love trip." It will make you ponder on where your heart is headed and where it's been.

Three dates

John Estrada, James Yap, Mico Palanca and Angelu de Leon were spotted having a night out in Bugsy's. Buds' bonding of three men and a lady.

Award-winning RP director making docu on Arnel and Journey

By RUBEN V. NEPALES
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LOS ANGELES, California—Now it can be told: award-winning filmmaker Ramona Diaz is making a feature-length documentary on Journey that's tentatively titled "Don't Stop Believin': Everyman's Journey."

Ramona, who won awards for her documentaries "Imelda" and "Spirits Rising," shared with me the news via e-mail. She wrote, "This film is ultimately a snapshot of Journey at this moment in 2008 in its 30-plus year history, as it emerges with a new lead singer." The band's vocalist is, as everyone knows by now, Arnel Pineda.

In what is no doubt an exciting project, Ramona and her crew have been following Journey from rehearsals to concert stages. She said she has "full access to the band." So far, the director who was born and raised in the Philippines but is now based in Maryland has been pleased with the cooperation of the band and their manager, John Baruck. "Arnel's manager in the Philippines, Bert de Leon, has also been so cooperative," Ramona added.

"What makes me really excited is that everyone is on board and understands what I'm trying to do with this film," revealed the filmmaker, a graduate of Emerson College, with an M.A. in communications from Stanford University. It all began when Ramona thought that a documentary, especially on a veteran rock band like Journey as it continues to reassert itself in the music scene with a new vocalist, would make a fascinating film. She asked her manager, Peter McHugh, nephew of the late Sen. Rene Cayetano and son of Alice Cayetano McHugh, to broach the idea to the band's manager, John Baruck.

The months-long negotiations eventually resulted in a dream project come true for Ramona. "We've been filming on and off since May and we'll wrap in Manila when they perform in the spring."

We are thrilled for Ramona, Arnel and the band—Neal Schon, Ross Valory, Jonathan Cain and Deen Castronovo. The documentary will be a milestone in the band's long career, which has cultivated millions of rabid fans all over the world. The latest proof of the group's staying power is the brisk sales of their latest, "Revelation," making it Journey's best-selling album since 1996's "Trial by Fire." The LA stop of their ongoing concert tour at the Greek Theatre has been changed from one to two nights (Sept. 28 and 30) due to overwhelming demand.

Below are excerpts of my interview via e-mail with Ramona:

How did you approach the band for this project? What was their reaction, especially Arnel's when he found out that it was a Filipina doing the documentary?

We approached the band through its management company. My manager, Peter McHugh (who also happens to be half-Filipino, half American-Irish) of The Gotham Group contacted their manager, John Baruck. It was months of negotiating back and forth and finally John Baruck understood the power of the story—after we had shown him a trailer of the first shoot we did with the band as they rehearsed in California in May. Now he's our staunchest ally which is great because we can't really do it without his support.

Arnel had heard that I wanted to do the film and of course, he was familiar with my past work. He thought it might actually work. He has been great.

What was your impression of Arnel when you first met him?

Arnel is the real thing. His size belies his power on stage—he owns that stage when he's on it. As they say, "Ang lakas ng dating." He's a real star and the camera loves him. He also cares very much about doing right by the band and the fans. He truly understands and respects the legacy of Journey and he tries to honor that in every performance. I believe that where he's come from and how far he's gone is never far away from his thoughts.

On a personal level, Arnel is down-to-earth and realistic about all the hoopla that's happening around him. Believe it or not, he's still extremely humble—and it's not pa-humble. I think this attitude is informed by his personal history. He's been around and experienced a lot. I've also found him to be a profound thinker, a true artist in that way. So when I hear some people say that "He's just a karaoke boy," I'm thinking boy, that couldn't be farther from the truth.

When was your first filming? When and where will your final shooting be?

We started filming as they rehearsed right before they took off for Europe and we've been shooting on and off since that time. We're hoping to wrap our shooting sometime in the spring when they tour Asia and of course, we'll be there filming Journey's concert in Manila.

When are you planning to release the documentary? Do you already have a distributor?

We'll release the documentary late next year. No, we don't have a distributor yet but everyone who's seen the trailer is very interested. But like all documentaries, there is no set script and the filming is very organic so a lot of distributors don't get involved until most of the filming is done. Emerging Pictures is on board as executive directors (Ira Deutchman and Josh Green). And I am also working with producers here in Baltimore—Whit Hauprich and Capella Fahoome—who are helping raise money through private investors. But we have the exclusivity on it—we're the only ones making a documentary about this with the full support of Journey.

What is your overall slant? Is it the resurgence of Journey, as Jonathan (Cain) has said? How will Arnel Pineda be integrated into this group?

Of course, the hook is Arnel's universal Cinderella story. Cinderella with a voice of gold meets rock 'n' roll icons through YouTube.

In addition, the songs play a big part in the film because they are anthemic and as a collective body of work, they have become part of the fabric of the aural environment.

What excites you most about this project?

I think the classic story of Arnel and also because the rest of the band and their managers are all participating and understanding what it is I'm trying to accomplish with the film. It's also a chance to show how a working band does it, from the ground up—something they've been doing for the past 30 years.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Court without appeal

In a bold move to begin repairing the damage the Court of Appeals (CA) sustained from the recent scandal involving the Meralco-GSIS case, the country's second-highest court issued an unprecedented "Covenant for Reform."

Read during last Monday's flag ceremony by Justice Portia Aliño-Hormachuelos, the covenant did not mince words in describing the CA's current reality. The CA's reputation as an institution has been badly tarnished, the covenant declared.

The covenant, essentially a new declaration of intent for the CA, called for a series of reforms, including the setting up of a one-stop shop to manage its docket of cases; revisions in its internal rules; and the appointment of an ombudsman for the court.

Unfortunately for the administration of justice, the most important steps, the most painful reforms, were not mentioned in the CA's covenant.

The reality is that the institution's reputation remains badly tarnished. Indeed, the allegations raised by Justice Jose Sabio, the emergence of a businessman without portfolio like Francis de Borja and the findings of the special commission the high court set up to investigate the case only confirmed public perception of corruption in the highest reaches of the judiciary.

To borrow the imagery used by Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist Solita Monsod, the CA cart carries both good and bad apples. (Its sheer size, while helping with the caseload, may actually work against its credibility. There may be too many apples in the cart to begin with.) To give the cart a thorough cleaning, all the apples must be unloaded, even if only temporarily. That may be the only way to tell which remain ripe and which have turned rotten. In other words, what the Supreme Court needs to do is extend its investigation to the rest of the CA. The probe may last for several months, and it may lead to some very public bloodletting, but it will be a surer path to reform. And it will have the not inconsiderable virtue of enjoying solid public support.

What good will new internal rules and a more efficient system for raffling off cases achieve, if the CA continues to be haunted by the very familiar ghost of decisions for sale? In their unguarded moments, many lawyers speak of a standard rate card, as it were, for CA decisions. A temporary restraining order, for instance, is said to have a going rate of P300,000.

If this is the problem, not even the setting up of an ombudsman's office can offer the right solution. Prevention, not medication, is the right cure.

(Philippine Daily Inquirer)

The patriotism of Filipinos

Glimpses

By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO

INQUIRER.NET

Disaster, after all, is not the exclusive experience of Filipinos—it is a growing nightmare in America as well. The collapse of giant business enterprises that symbolize American stability is sending a tremor in American society that is cracking its core confidence and occasional economic arrogance today. The panic of the public is not yet uncontrollable only because the government is the one panicking ahead of everyone else and trying to save even what may not be saved anymore.

When the Asian crisis in 1997 saw several currencies lose great value, many realized how absolutely unreliable the global financial systems were, and how utterly brutal they were to people. At that time, it was acknowledged that more than 90 percent of the world's financial transactions were not based on actual products or services but on speculation. That should be nobody's business then but of speculators — except that the currencies of nations rose and fell on those same speculative transactions. Asia teetered but Asia recovered. Perhaps, that experience has made Asian economies stronger, so strong that Asia is now the center of global growth today and tomorrow.

Asia's growth, though, is borne of its resiliency. It has precisely because of its experience of pain and inferiority that it has developed a capacity for taking hard punches, of being beaten, but of surviving through it all. The effect of that whole process of being conquered, colonized, exploited, and kept at the bottom of the cellar has been submission on the outside than resentment at the inside. China and India broke loose from historical imposition and beating the West in its own game. Even Russia that was almost begging from its Western counterparts just yesterday seems determined to regain its dominant status even in global economics.

Where, then, is the Filipino in all of this?

At home, things are not all well. Government as represented by the president and Congress is overwhelmingly unpopular. The Catholic Church is slowly losing its own credibility as an institution, with respect and admiration for it waning as fast as the confusion that its highest leadership generates with less than united and consistent actuation on several issues. Philippine society is virtually leaderless as the traditional State and Church dominance clings on mostly by the force of police state and the fear of hell. In the whole equation, both State and Church provide no inspiration, no vision, no noble mission which they can send their people to eagerly pursue.

The American economic debacle hurts Filipino-Americans, and the pain of Fil-Ams translate to pain for their families and relatives in the homeland. Remittances from America still comprise the majority of all remittances to the Philippines, and decreased earnings by Fil-Ams will result in less money remittances to Filipinos and the Philippine economy. A century ago, history created an umbilical cord between the Philippine and America. The relationship has not always been a fair one or a kind one, but it is there and it is being evolved to being a more intimate one with a few million Filipinos now citizens of the United States.

Filipinos rank as the second-highest income earner among ethnic groups in America, with Filipino families earning even higher incomes than American families on average. In a small gathering I attended recently in Chicago, I was told by one Fil-Am lady that she did not feel having done anything spectacular to achieve economic wellbeing except to seize opportunity after opportunity that she encountered along the way. With her was one Fil-Am after another who, too, had done the same, and they too were progressing by the day. There were dentists, artists, journalists, TV producers and the simply employed, a good representation of first and second generation Fil-Ams.

I was amazed at the spirit that was prevalent in that gathering. Whatever generation they belonged to, whatever profession or business they were involved in, a common thread of love for the homeland and concern for the poor was clearly evident, and the determination to each find a tangible way to share their blessings. Everyone accepted that the divisiveness that defined especially the first-generation Fil-Ams but it was obvious that the younger generation was moving under a different set of circumstances.

The memory of a native land and blood ties to a people left behind deeply mired in poverty and corruption is no longer simply discouraging Fil-Ams like before. Perhaps, decades of frustrations have pushed many Fil-Ams to think of different ways in which to help the Philippines despite the absence of inspiring leadership and good governance. In other ways, the urge to help is getting stronger and can soon overtake the propensity to merely gripe about things.

I have been moving from one city to another — many in California, and in Maryland, Virginia, and now in Illinois. I have several more to visit before I can complete this trip, but it is obvious that a special moment in the evolution of Filipinos is now emerging. It is an awesome emergence, one I had feared I would not see in my lifetime. Today, I am convinced that the trend is irreversible, and becomes more so under adversity. Truly, patriotism for the native land is alive and being stoked, not discouraged, by failed leaderships all around us.

It seems true, then, that despair can lead to determination, that frustration can lead to action. The air is truly laden with a strange and rare quality of hope that is undeterred by a darkening moment. It is not a hope of fantasy, but a hope grounded on a resolve to act, to contribute, to change, to share, to save the poor, to build a nation. It is an energy preparing to burst, difficult to describe but palpable enough to sense.

In the midst of an extended helplessness in the motherland, in the midst of an economic depression in America, it is no longer surrender that is forming in the hearts of Filipinos worldwide but a surprising determination to move forward even without leadership. After all, it may be America where great change is expected from the propaganda of politics. Indeed, it may be in the Philippines, from the patriotism of Filipinos.

Responses may be sent to jlmglimpses@gmail.com.

Amorsolo in America

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Last night was a gala dinner to jump-start the activities and, more importantly, raise funds for the biggest exhibition on the life and works of Fernando C. Amorsolo, who was declared the first National Artist of the Philippines in 1972. "His Art. Our Heart" is the catchy title of a series of shows in different venues and themes. For example, the Lopez Museum will draw from its collection and focus on Amorsolo as a graphic artist—from the illustrations to the famous series of "Philippine Readers" textbooks rand other prewar magazines to the Ginebra San Miguel label and Ivory soap advertisements. The Yuchengco Museum will concentrate on portraits. Other participating museums are the National Museum, the Vargas Museum, the Ayala Museum, National Museum and Lopez Museum—all covering different aspects of the artist's life and work. When all these are put together, we will be able to see Amorsolo in a new light and perhaps appreciate him more.

It is hoped that the same attention will be given to the remaining National Artists.

If you go by the results of international art auctions, Amorsolo is a constant favorite. His paintings rarely go unsold. When a canvas is special for its rarity and technique, its price goes way beyond the estimates.

In 1919, Enrique Zobel commissioned Amorsolo to make copies of Francisco Goya's "Maja Desnuda" and Velazquez's "Don Fernando de Austria." Things were more difficult in the age before the Internet and since these famous paintings were hanging in the Prado Museum in Madrid, Zobel paid for Amorsolo's trip to Spain and sent him a monthly pension. I have yet to see these Amorsolo copies (I wonder if these survived World War II). After completing this commission and making some exceptional paintings and drawings of a nude Spanish woman, the artist visited major cities in the United States, including New York, Washington and San Francisco.

As a historian, I'm interested in researching Amorsolo's notebooks and letters to know what he saw and what he experienced and try to relate these to his art. Naturally, his paintings, drawings, and sketches are worth a lot of money but his writings are just as important even if they don't fetch the same astronomical prices.

Years ago, I wrote an essay about Amorsolo's sketches of Manila during the war. These sketches form a visual and historical record of those dark days. And I hope that this great exhibition will yield materials previously unknown to art historians so we can enlarge our knowledge of Amorsolo and his world.

The National Museum has many pencil studies, some with notes on color and treatment that give us an idea of his technique and creative process. It is hoped that more papers will be found with his relatives, friends and contemporaries. There is a very revealing undated and incomplete letter he wrote to his friend Guillermo E. Tolentino that I'm sharing today. The original used to be in the possession of Paz Tolentino, but now it cannot be found after having been "borrowed" by someone who never returned it. The letter reads:

"Hindi rin ako nayamot sa tren gaya sa bapor ngunit ako'y masiadong nag-iisa kaya halos lahat ng aking mga kasama, nagsisilapit at minsan-minsan akong hinahanap. Mayroon tuloy akong nakilalang isang Ingles na may gustong pumunta sa P.I. [Philippine Islands] at dalawang Amerikano na doon ang tungo. Ang isa ay sundalo at madalas akong kinakausap ng Kastila at Tagalog. Ang unang tanong sa akin ay ang Sampaloc at 'Mucho bueno ba ang puki Espanol?'

"Mayroon namang isang matandang Americano na sa dining coach ay kinausap ako agad ng Kastila. Nang sinabi ko na ako'y Filipino ay agad tinanong ako ng opinion ko about our independencia. Sina [not legible] siya na kung ako'y gagawing Presidente ay dapat na ngang maging independiente tayo ngunit kung hindi ay huwag nang ibigay kahit kelan. Sapagkat kung hindi rin ako gagawing presidente o emperador ay hindi mawawala ang partido ng mangkukulam.

"Bago kami makaraan ng Salt Lake ay nakakita ako ng mina at conejo.

"Ang hindi ko gusto ay ang aking pagtulog. Magbuhat Chicago hindi na ako nakatikim ng lower berth. Maraming Amerikanang magaganda ngunit walang libre banat.

"Kahapon ng hapon pinasial ko ang city sa bus. Nakita ko ang Cliff House, Golden Gate, Presidio, etc.

"Kaninang umaga higit na tatlong oras ako sa Museo sa Golden Gate. Very poor ang Museo. Dito pinapakilala ng Amerikano ang kanilang ignorance in art taste. Sa sculpture room wala akong napili kundi dalawa o tatlo (ang isa'y itong postal). Halos lahat na ay amanerado tila mga yari ng isang fabrica de marmol o escultura para restaurant o pangadorno sa mga salon de club.

"Tumagal lamang ako ng konti sa room ng last War at sa Spanish-American War. Dito ko nakita ng ilang nauukol sa Revolucion Filipina, etc.etc.

"Pag-alis ko sa Museo ay nabasa akong mabuti at gutom na gutom ako at natae ako ng matigas.

"Kamusta na lang sa kaluluwa mo. (Sgd) F.C. Amorsolo."

I did not translate the above to give the reader a sense of Amorsolo's familiar and rather earthy language. The reference to sex and stool is twice as vulgar in the original Tagalog. Writing on the back of a series of tourist or picture postcards, Amorsolo did not just tell us where he went but provided his opinion—a boon to any historian or biographer. Imagine what else research will uncover.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

BIRTHDAY GET-TOGETHER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two-year-old Izea Dimaun blows her birthday candle with mom and dad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Light and Salt family gather for a photo during Izea Dimaun's birthday party at the Aquarius Hotel last Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday girl Izea Dimaun poses with Cale, Heleyna and Iver at Aquarius hotel.

CUC PROTEST RALLY

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Jerry Custodio, president of the CNMI Human Dignity Movement, and other members of the Filipino community participate in Wednesday's CUC Protest Rally at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Itos Feliciano, together with other members of the Filipino community, display their placards during Wednesday's CUC Protest Rally at the Garapan Fishing Base.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Activist Irene Tantiado ties a yellow ribbon around the arms of event organizer Rep. Tina Sablan during Wednesday's CUC Protest Rally at the Garapan Fishing Base.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Ed Salas' wife, Nona, ties a yellow ribbon around the arms of Ellen Delos Santos during Wednesday's CUC Protest Rally at the Garapan Fishing Base.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

YoungStyle

Campaign issues: The environment

By VALERIE STRAUSS
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AT ISSUE: What should the U.S. government do about global warming?

The Earth's climate is changing. Parts of it are warming up. Other areas are becoming colder. And many storms are more dangerous. Most scientists agree that human activity is the main cause. Fossil fuels, such as gas that we use in cars and oil we burn at home, give off carbon dioxide (called carbon emissions) and other gases, which trap heat in our atmosphere.

Nobody knows for sure what will happen if the planet continues to heat up. But scientists have seen enough changes in the environment, such as shrinking butterfly populations and melting glaciers, that many countries are taking action to help reverse the damage. Both presidential candidates say the United States needs to be a leader on this issue. Here's a look at what each one says he would do.

WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON THE ENVIRONMENT

■ The issue in their own words

Sen. Barack Obama: "Global warming is not a someday problem, it is now. ... It's not the future any of us want for our children. And if we act now, and we act boldly, it doesn't have to be."

Sen. John McCain: "I want to assure you I will make this planet clean. ... We will hand to you a cleaner planet than the one you were living in before I became president of the United States."

By how much would each candidate cut carbon emissions? (Scientists recommend cutting them to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.)

Obama: Supports reducing carbon emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

McCain: Supports reducing carbon emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and to 60 percent below 1990 levels in 2050.

Where do they stand on pollution "permits," which companies would have to buy if their pollutants were more than the government allowed? (Low-polluting companies could sell permits to higher-polluting ones.)

Obama: Supports. Would auction pollution permits to businesses and use the money to help clean up the environment.

McCain: Supports. Would initially give away permits to some business but would move toward an auction. Hasn't said what he would do with the money raised.

How did each vote in the Senate on environmental issues?

Obama: In 2007, he missed votes on four major environmental bills before Congress.

McCain: In 2007, the Sierra Club said he was the only member of Congress who did not vote on any of the 15 major pieces of environmental legislation.

Both presidential candidates—Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain—say the United States needs to be a leader on the issue of global warming.

Where kids stand on the issue

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Thousands of kids participated in online surveys about the environment conducted by Scholastic. How do the views of other kids compare with yours?

Which is the most important environmental issue facing the world today?

55 percent: Global climate change

16 percent: Wildlife conservation

15 percent: Energy resources

14 percent: Water resources

What are you willing to do to stop global warming?

46 percent: Recycle and change some habits, such as walking or riding my bike more often, switching to efficient light bulbs and turning lights off.

36 percent: Whatever it takes: I'm ready to volunteer my time and turn my school green.

11 percent: Recycle my bottles and cans, but that's it.

7 percent: Nothing. I don't think it's a huge problem.

How concerned are you that polar bears are at high risk for extinction?

59 percent: Extremely! We must save the polar bears.

27 percent: Who needs polar bears? Not me.

10 percent: It's a concern, but other animals are at even higher risk.

4 percent: I'm more concerned about global warming in general.

Source: *Scholastic/American Museum of Natural History 2008 Environmental Report Card.*

For Constitution Day, Supreme Court Justice explains it all

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Wednesday is Constitution Day, which marks the 221st anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. The document is basically the rule book for how the federal government should operate. Although it has changed over the years (those changes are called amendments), the words written by the country's earliest leaders, sometimes called the Framers, are still in effect today. KidsPost asked Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts, an expert on the Constitution, to answer questions about it.

Q: How can a document that was written at a time when people traveled by horseback still be relevant?

A: The Constitution is relevant today because the Framers who wrote it were planning a government they hoped would last beyond their own time. They wanted to promote justice and preserve freedom for future generations—including yours! The Framers may not have thought about cars, DVDs or iPods, but they knew that every generation should be free and have a fair and just government.

Q: What is the most important part of the Constitution?

A: The most important part of the Constitution is the way that all its parts work together. The Framers knew how bad it was to live under a powerful and unjust king, and so the Constitution split government power among the legislative, executive and judicial branches. That way no one of them could get too strong. That plan is more important than any one part.

Roberts

Q: What do you think is the coolest part of the Constitution that people do not really know about?

A: What could be cooler than the part about the Supreme Court? Under the Constitution, justices serve for life, so they can say what the law means without worrying that it might be unpopular. Because the Supreme Court is separate from the rest of the government, it can make sure the government follows the law, too. People may know that, but I'm not sure they know how rare and special it is.

Q: Does the Constitution protect anything a kid says in school?

A: The First Amendment gives free speech rights to everyone, young and old, but that doesn't mean you can say whatever you want in school whenever you want. If that were the rule, nothing would get done!

Q: Is there anything else you want to tell kids about the Constitution?

A: Our Constitution is the oldest written national constitution in the world. As you grow older, you will have the right under the Constitution to vote, to serve on juries, to run for political office and to participate in government in other ways. So get ready: Study the Constitution. Remember, the Framers designed the Constitution for you—but you have to make it work.

Constitution Fact

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

The U.S. Constitution is the oldest (221 years) and shortest (4,400 words) of all written national constitutions."Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" has more than 60,000 words.

Know Your Constitution

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Take this quiz and test your constitutional knowledge!

1: Which state was the first to ratify the Constitution?
a) Virginia
b) Delaware
c) Maryland

2: Why did delegates gather in Philadelphia in the summer of 1787?
a) To write the Declaration of Independence
b) To amend the Articles of Confederation
c) To write the Pledge of Allegiance

3: What right does the First Amendment not guarantee?
a) Freedom of speech
b) The right to assemble
c) The right to own a pet

4: True or False. A candidate can be elected president even if he or she does not win the popular vote across the country in the national election.

5: The first 10 amendments to the Constitution are called:
a) Preamble
b) The Amendments
c) The Bill of Rights

ANSWERS
1) b; 2) b; 3) c ; 4) true; 5) c

Sources: *The Washington Post, whitehouse.gov/kids/constitution/quiz/*

Why do songs get stuck in your head?

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

It happens to all of us: We hear a song or a jingle and then it keeps running through our brains over and over and over, sometimes to the point where we wish we could forget it!

Researchers have given the phenomenon a name: earworms. Nobody knows exactly why they get stuck in our heads, but there are some interesting theories.

The first study on earworms showed that the kind of music most likely to get stuck in your head is simple and repetitive. In addition, the lyrics are usually unexpected.

Think about the words to "Who Let the Dogs Out?" Here's the chorus: "Who let the dogs out (woof, woof, woof, woof)." Repeat the sentence three times.

No wonder that song is a common earworm! (Some other popular earworms, which we list here only so that you can perhaps mention them in passing to siblings, parents and teachers and thus infect them, include "We Will Rock You," "Y.M.C.A." and "It's a Small World.")

The researcher who conducted the study on earworms was James Kellaris of the University of Cincinnati's College of Business. He learned that any song can become an earworm for some people.

Some people get more earworms than others. Who are they? It turns out that musicians are more likely to get them than non-musicians, and women get them more than men. For some reason, people who worry a lot are more earworm-prone than non-worriers.

This suggests that the music alone is not responsible for an earworm. Individual traits and brain design seem to play a big role, too.

Earworms can get stuck in our heads for a few minutes or even a few days. The University of Cincinnati Web site on Kellaris and earworms offers a few remedies to stop the repetition in your brain.

■ Try to replace it with another, perhaps less annoying song.

■ Do something to distract yourself.

■ Walk to a different tempo from the one in the earworm.

Source: www.business.uc.edu/earworms/faqs

PUZZLE CARD

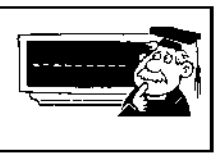
	12		
14		8	
	17		7
		5	

38

IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 2 through 17 to fill in the above Magic Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column must total 38. Also, the two corner-to-corner diagonals. We've filled in six numbers for you. Use the trial-and-error method.

Answer: First row: 9, 12, 15, 2. Second row: 14, 3, 8, 13. Third row: 4, 17, 10, 7. Fourth row: 11, 6, 5, 16.

STUMP THE TEACHER! Challenge your English teacher to come up with a nine-letter word that contains only ONE vowel. Hint: He'll need a STRONG vocabulary to answer this one.



Answer: The word is STRENGTHS.

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

1. LAD	ABLE
2. HAS	RED
3. IMP	KING
4. MITE	LED
5. KIN	TEN
6. NOT	LIED

Answers: Ladled, hasten, implied, mitered, kinking, notable.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A VERY SHORT CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

This is a tricky puzzle. Fill in the puzzle grid using the following definitions:

Across:
1. Well-known insects.
6. Organs of the body.
7. To tantalize.
8. Comfort.
9. Belongs to us.

Down:
1. What a lion is.
2. What a mouse is.
3. What a mosquito is.
4. What a cat is.
5. What a dog is.

Answers: (Across) 1. BBBBB (Bees). 6. IIIII (Eyes). 7. TTTTT (Tease). 8. EEEEE (Ease). 9. RRRRR (Ours). (Down) 1. I-5 BITER.

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When wildlife gets too close

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My neighbor "Gladys" will put out food for any wild creature that happens by her back porch. I'm not talking about a few songbirds: She is putting out food for raccoons and squirrels, has a big block of salt in the back corner of her yard for deer, and who knows what else. I think this is dangerous because it makes these animals come into her neighbors' yards looking for food, and they might hurt our pets or our kids! Should I report her to someone, like animal control?—Anonymous but Annoyed

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Here's a question: Have you talked to Gladys about your concerns? I know the political maelstrom that is modern suburbia tends to preclude this seemingly obvious step, but it is important to find out if Gladys even realizes that her actions could have negative consequences.

And by talking to her, I don't mean standing in her line of sight while she's outside and yelling "Nyah nyah, I'm telling on you!" Save that for those tension-filled summer evenings after she blames you for the homeowners' association letter asking her to stop—but wait, I'm getting ahead of myself.

First you have to ask her nicely. It's the neighborly thing to do. Then you bring it up at the next HOA meeting. If the community agrees with you, a letter can be issued to Gladys by the homeowners' association.

Contacting animal control—if there is no immediate danger—should be done only if Gladys does not respond to yours or the HOA's requests. The department may issue a civil infraction (punishable by a fine) if they receive enough complaints. Animal control should always be called if there is an imminent threat by an animal, or if a pet or wild animal is in immediate need of assistance.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ Married women aren't likely to be surprised by the following tidbit of information: Studies show that women with husbands typically do 30 percent more housework than single women do.

■ It was Ferdinand Drucker, a writer and consultant who was considered to be the father of modern management, who made the following sage observation: "In all recorded history there has not been one economist who has had to worry about where the next meal would come from."

■ The horseshoe crab isn't really a crab. It's actually more closely related to scorpions.

■ Have you ever heard of a cicerone? It's someone who samples and recommends beer, much like a sommelier does for wine. Not bad work, if you can get it.

■ If you're the superstitious type, then you probably already know that you're never supposed to whistle backstage at a theater, aboard a naval vessel or in a newspaper's city room.

■ The first advice book for parents appeared in the United States in 1811.

■ With the steadily rising food prices we've been seeing lately, you might be having a harder time filling your refrigerator than you used to. You might not realize, though, that part of the problem might be the fact that the size of your refrigerator is increasing, too. Since 1980, the standard refrigerator has increased by 10 percent, to 22 cubic feet. Incidentally, the clothes dryer has grown by 25 percent in the same time period.

■ Those who study such things say that Lithuanian is the language that is most like the original Indo-European tongue from which all Western languages are descended.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Success consists in being successful, not in having potential for success. Any wide piece of ground is the potential site of a palace, but there's no palace till it's built."—Fernando Pessoa

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MAGIC MAZE ● — BACON

A W U R P M J H E C T Z X U S

Q N L J G E C Z X V S T R P N

L J K H E C A Y W F A V Y T R

P N I E K I G F O D F E E C B

Z D B X V W S B O E K E U D S

C A N A D I A N R R A T E H P

O M L A C L N J U U E I I S R

G E D N S K B T A C R H Y I E

X W A U T G S Q P F B W S N G

O R N L K J G H G F D C B A O

F O E D I S D E L L I R G D R

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Back	Danish	Grilled	Slab of
Breakfast	Eggs and	Rasher of	Turkey
Canadian	Francis	Roger	White
Cured	Fried	Side of	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	x		+		15
+		−		−	
	÷		x		21
x		x		x	
	x		+		13
20		12		10	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 9 9

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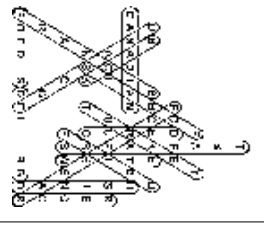
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

1	x	6	+	9	15
+		−		−	
9	÷	3	x	7	21
x		x		x	
2	x	4	+	5	13
20		12		10	

Whip up a batch of Amish Whoopie Pies for dessert

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

If you ever travel through Lancaster County in Pennsylvania, you'll likely find roadside stands featuring a regional specialty called "Amish Whoopie Pie." According to legend, when children would find these sweet and yummy treats in their lunch bags, they would shout "Whoopie!"

These dessert treats are more like a cake than a pie or a cookie, and they're so big, you'll want to share one with a friend. The original recipes were made with chocolate, but this adaptation using pumpkin has become a fall family favorite.

This recipe is fun to make when everyone in the family gets involved. The steps require a lot of mixing, so give each family member a separate "mixing and stirring" task using the specific bowls listed in the following steps.

When cooking with kids, choose tasks according to ability and the child's interest in learning new skills. For example, if one of your kids is ready to crack eggs, give him "Bowl No. 2"!

Preheat the oven to 350 F.

BOWL No. 1

In one large mixing bowl, combine 1 cup of vegetable oil with 2 cups of brown sugar. Mix well.

BOWL No. 2

In a second bowl, whisk two eggs, then add them to the first bowl. Continue stirring as you add 1 1/2 cups canned pumpkin and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract.

BOWL No. 3

In the third bowl, combine the following dry ingredients:

3 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1 tablespoon allspice
1 teaspoon salt

Add dry ingredients to bowl No. 1 and stir. The consistency will be similar to batter for pumpkin bread. Scoop 1/4-cup quantities of the mixture onto a greased cookie sheet.

Bake 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool slightly, remove from pan and cool on wire rack.

Assemble by spreading your favorite vanilla frosting on one baked "cookie," then top with another to resemble a giant sandwich cookie. Dust with powdered sugar and serve. Makes 10.

Tip: For a creative twist, add 1/4 cup canned chestnut puree to every cup of vanilla frosting.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Unknown Mozart fragment found in French library

By ANGELA DOLAND
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PARIS (AP)—It's a forgotten melody, sketched in black ink in a swift but sure hand. The single manuscript page, long hidden in a provincial French library, has been verified as the work of Mozart, the apparent underpinnings for a Mass he never composed.

The previously undocumented music fragment gives insight into Mozart's evolving composition style and provides a clue about the role religion may have played for the composer as his life neared its turbulent end, one prominent Mozart expert says.

A library in Nantes, western France, has had the fragment in its collection since the 19th century, but it had never been authenticated until now, partly because it does not bear Mozart's signature.

Ulrich Leisinger, head of research at the International Mozarteum Foundation in Salzburg, Austria, said Thursday that there is no doubt that the single sheet, the top third of which has been cut off, was written by the composer.

"His handwriting is absolutely clearly identifiable," he added. "There's no doubt that this is an original piece handwritten by Mozart."

Leisinger said the work had been "entirely forgotten." Such a find is rare: The last time unknown music in Mozart's handwriting came to light was in 1996, when a portion of an aria was sold at Christie's, Leisinger said.

The library does not plan to sell, but if it did, the single sheet would likely be worth around $100,000, the expert said. In all, only about 100 such examples of musical drafts by Mozart are known.

There have been up to 10 Mozart discoveries of such importance over the past 50 years, Leisinger said.

The sheet was bequeathed to Nantes' library by a collector in the 19th century, along with one letter from Mozart as well as one from his father. Both the letters were published in Mozart's complete correspondence, said Agnes Marcetteau, director of Nantes' municipal library.

AP

Nantes vice-mayor Jean-Louis Jossic displays a previously unknown piece of music by Mozart, discovered by a library, as staff were going through its archives, Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008, in Nantes, western France.

In an annotation dated Aug. 18, 1839, Aloys Fuchs, a well-respected autograph hunter who collected works from more than 1,500 musicians, authenticated that the handwriting was that of "W.A. Mozart."

But strangely, the work never attracted much attention, partly because it did not bear Mozart's signature and partly because the catalog notation about it was extremely brief and bland, Leisinger said.

The library contacted Leisinger to authenticate the work last year.

Some of the first part of the fragment is in D minor, while the second is in D major and marked "Credo" - a major clue that the work is a sketch for a Mass, which typically includes such a movement, said Robert D. Levin, a professor at Harvard University who is well-known for completing unfinished works by Mozart.

Circumstantial evidence, including the type of paper, suggests Mozart did not write the material before 1787, said Leisinger. Mozart died in 1791 at the age of 35.

"What this sketch leaf confirms in a most vivid way is Mozart's true interest in writing church music toward the end of his life," Levin said.

Mozart had planned to become the choir and music director of Vienna's main cathedral, although he died before he could take up the post. But because Mozart had become a Freemason, some have questioned the sincerity of his interest in religious composition at that period of his life, Leisinger said.

Mozart's famous Requiem, unfinished at his death, was commissioned by a mysterious benefactor. But the rediscovered fragment likely stemmed from inspiration alone and suggests "to a certain degree that being a Freemason and a Roman Catholic was not a real contradiction" in Mozart's eyes, Leisinger said.

For anyone who wants to try sight-reading the fragment, a bit of detective work is required. Musicians must work out the key signature and clef based on other clues in the music. The tempo is also mysterious. And there is no orchestration.

Seinfeld, Gates yield stage to real Windows users

SEATTLE (AP)—TV viewers can return to their favorite programs without fear of seeing Bill Gates shaking his tushie now that Microsoft Corp. has retired a bizarre two-week-old ad campaign featuring the software giant's chairman with comedian Jerry Seinfeld.

Bloggers and online media have suggested that the Redmond, Wash.-based company yanked the Seinfeld ads after they were poorly received. The ads show Gates and Seinfeld trading banter at a mall shoe store and while living with a suburban family, trying to get in touch with regular people. Seinfeld asks Gates nonsensical questions about the future of computing, and Gates responds with "signs" that he's on the right track, including "adjusting his shorts," as Seinfeld called the awkward hip shake, and doing "the robot," a dance move.

However, a senior vice president in Microsoft's central marketing group, Mich Mathews, contended in an interview Thursday that it was always the plan to replace the Seinfeld-Gates ads with ones that focus on Windows.

"The notion that we're doing some quick thing to cancel (the Seinfeld ads) is actually preposterous," Mathews said. "Today was always the day. ... Media buying is something you have to do months in advance."

Seinfeld

Mathews described the three Seinfeld spots as ice breakers with a limited shelf life, designed to grab people's attention in a tongue-in-cheek way without the pressure of having to talk about the product.

"We wanted to be sure that when we do come out with our major message, today, `Life Without Walls,' more people would be paying attention than they would otherwise," Mathews said. "My goodness, did we do that."

The Windows-focused campaign attempts to turn Apple's "I'm a Mac" ads on their head. A new TV ad set to debut during "The Office" on NBC Thursday evening begins with a Microsoft engineer who looks like the PC character in Apple's ads saying "Hello, I'm a PC, and I've been made into a stereotype." He's followed by a montage of real-life PC users, celebrities and Microsoft Windows engineers who all repeat the "I'm a PC" mantra.

Microsoft also has ads queued up for print, Web and public spaces that focus on the way Windows, Windows Mobile, Microsoft's Live services and its TV platform connect.

The $300 million campaign was designed by ad agency Crispin Porter + Bogusky. Microsoft said the company is "exploring options" with Seinfeld for new ads, but that no ads beyond the three that aired have been filmed so far.

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Disaster Movie
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:15
Mon and Tue 4:15 7:15
Carmen Electra, Matt Lanter
Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
One fateful night, a group of ridiculously attractive twenty-somethings try to make their way to safety while every known natural disaster and catastrophic event—asteroids, twisters, earthquakes, the works—hits the city and their path as they try to solve a series of mysteries to end the rampant destruction.

★ ★ ★

Righteous Kill
Friday 4:25 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon and Tue 4:25 7:30
Robert De Niro, Al Pacino
Action, Drama • Rated R
Synopsis
A serial murderer walks the streets of Manhattan, targeting violent felons who have fallen through the cracks of the judicial system. All the victims are suspected criminals whose bodies are found accompanied by a four line poem justifying the killing. The killer's mission is to do what the cops can't do on their own--take the bad guys off the streets for good. When a notorious pimp becomes one of the killer's victims, highly decorated detectives Turk and Rooster are called in to investigate. This case could easily be the biggest one in their 30 years on the force.

Tyler Perry's Family That Preys
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon and Tue 4:20 7:05
Alfre Woodard, Sanaa Lathan
Drama, Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Wealthy socialite Charlotte Cartwright and her dear friend Alice Pratt, a working class woman of high ideals, have enjoyed a lasting friendship throughout many years. Suddenly, their lives become mired in turmoil as their adult children's extramarital affairs, unethical business practices and a dark paternity secret threaten to derail family fortunes and unravel the lives of all involved. Alice's self-centered newlywed daughter Andrea is betraying her trusting husband Chris by engaging in a torrid affair with her boss and mother's best friend's son William.

Bangkok Dangerous
Friday 4:05 7:00 9:50
Saturday 1:00 4:05 7:00 9:50
Sunday 1:00 4:05 7:00
Mon and Tue 4:05 7:00
Nicolas Cage, Shahkrit Yamnarm
Action, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated R

Babylon A.D.
Friday 4:00 7:10 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon and Tue 4:00 7:10
Vin Diesel, Michelle Yeoh
Drama, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Traitor
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon and Tue 4:10 7:25
Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Death Race
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:20
Mon and Tue 4:30 7:20
Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

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O'Neal attorney denies drug allegations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A day after Ryan O'Neal and his son were arrested on suspicion of drug possession, his lawyer denied any wrongdoing by the actor. "The drugs found were not his," attorney Mark Werksman told The Associated Press on Thursday. "He would never use them

O'Neal was arrested along with his son, Redmond, after authorities searched their home early Wednesday. The search was part of a routine sweep by deputies checking on Redmond O'Neal, who remains on probation after pleading guilty earlier this year to a pair of drug possession felonies.

The pair were released after posting $10,000 bail. Los Angeles County prosecutors will evaluate whether to press charges against the men.

Werksman said the elder O'Neal was "shaken up" by the arrests. "We know that when all the facts come out, he should not be charged with any crime here."

O'Neal

The lawyer did not address any role O'Neal's son may have played, and said he did not know who was representing Redmond O'Neal.

A sheriff's spokesman said Wednesday that Ryan O'Neal was arrested after drugs were found in his living area. The drugs were suspected to be methamphetamine.

"He's tried to lead a peaceful life," Werksman said of Ryan O'Neal. "He's acting and he's caring for his family and this is the last thing he ever wanted or expected."

O'Neal, 67, was nominated for a best actor Academy Award for 1970's "Love Story." Redmond, 23, is his son from a relationship with Farrah Fawcett.

O'Neal had two children with his first wife, Joanna Moore: actor Griffin O'Neal and actress Tatum O'Neal, his co-star in the 1973 movie "Paper Moon," for which she won an Oscar for best supporting actress.

In July, Tatum O'Neal pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct in connection with an arrest on suspicion of cocaine possession in New York.

On Thursday, she issued a statement of support for her father and half brother.

"Addiction, if untreated, can lead to jail, institutions and death. I love them both and I am sorry to hear about this," she said.

AP

In this Feb. 26, 2008 file photo, Gary Coleman, of the television series "Diff'rent Strokes," appears on the the NBC "Today" program in New York.

Gary Coleman sued over Utah bowling alley ruckus

PROVO, Utah (AP)—Gary Coleman has been sued by a man who claims the actor punched him and ran into him with his truck in a Payson bowling alley parking lot, causing knee, back and neck injuries.

Colt Rushton, 24, of Spanish Fork, says he and Coleman got into an argument Sept. 6 after he began taking pictures of the "Diff'rent Strokes" actor with a cell phone.

Coleman, 40, was charged with misdemeanor reckless driving and disorderly conduct in Payson City Justice Court. A court clerk said Thursday there had been no notification that Coleman is represented by a lawyer.

In the civil lawsuit, filed Wednesday in 4th District Court, Rushton's account of the confrontation said Coleman's bodyguard, Paul Rohbock, told Rushton he would have to pay $20 per picture if he continued taking photos.

Rushton's attorney, Dustin Lance, said Rushton stopped taking pictures, but when he later saw Coleman sitting in his truck close to the steering wheel, he thought it was funny and took another picture.

The lawsuit contends Rushton was attacked from behind by Rohbock or Coleman's wife, Shannon Price, and that his cell phone was taken away. The lawsuit also contends Coleman punched Rushton in the chest several times.

Swank recovering after procedure to remove growth

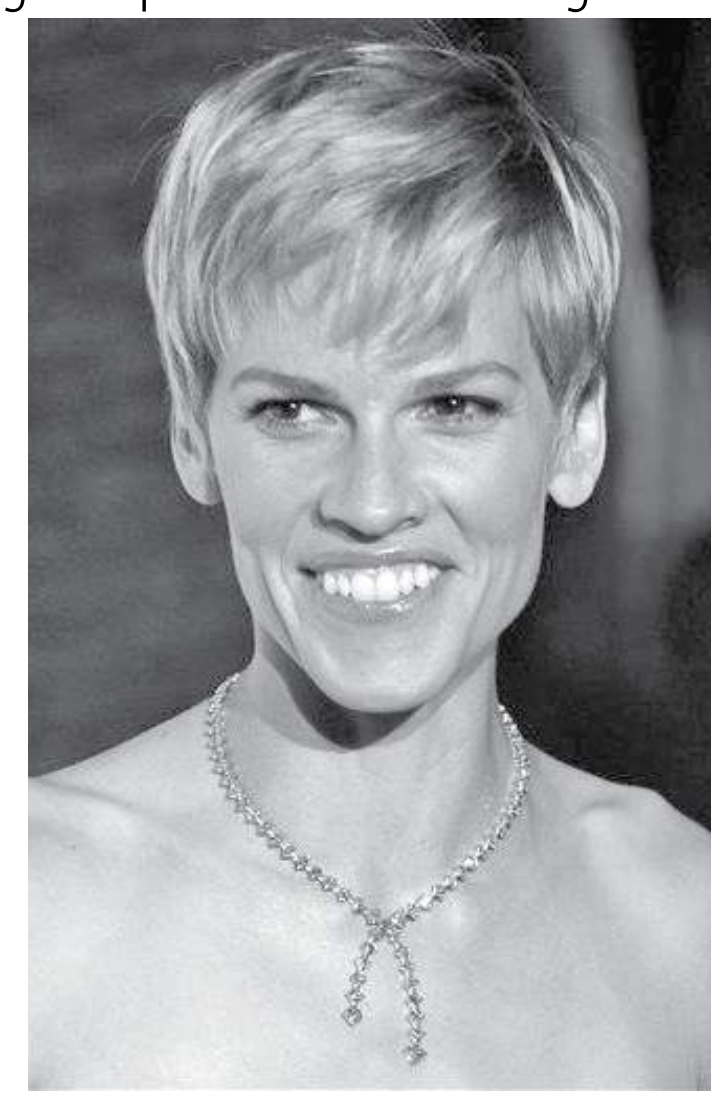
NEW YORK (AP)—Hilary Swank is recovering after a hospital procedure to remove a small, benign growth, a representative for the Oscar-winning actress said Thursday.

"She was experiencing some discomfort and went to see her doctor, who prescribed an immediate course of action that included a brief hospitalization" to eliminate the growth, Swank's manager, Jason Weinberg, said in a statement.

"Her condition has been resolved and there are no continuing health issues, with the exception of some short-term rest and recuperation," Weinberg said.

He would not provide further details.

Swank, 34, won Oscars for her roles in "Boys Don't Cry" and "Million Dollar Baby." Her screen credits also include "Freedom Writers," "P.S. I Love You" and the upcoming "Amelia."


AP

In this Aug. 23, 2008 file photo, Hilary Swank arrives at a party thrown by Nakheel and the Trump Organization to introduce The Trump International Hotel & Tower Dubai in Los Angeles.

Farm Aid to help farmers hurt by Ike, Gustav

AP

In this June 13, 2008 file photo, Willie Nelson arrives on stage to perform at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival 2008 in Manchester, Tenn.

SOMERVILLE, Mass. (AP)—Farm Aid founder Willie Nelson says the organization will give $30,000 to groups that help family farmers in areas of Texas and Louisiana hit hardest by Hurricanes Ike and Gustav.

Nelson, a native Texan, announced the grants Thursday. They include $7,500 each to the Lutheran Social Services of the South, the Southern Mutual Help Association, the Louisiana Interchurch Conference and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives.

Somerville-based Farm Aid says more money will be distributed as the extent of the hurricane damage becomes clearer.

Farm Aid, the nation's longest-running benefit concert, has raised more than $30 million since its first show in 1985.

The concert will be held in New England for the first time on Sept. 20.

Big spender's big mouth makes her friend cringe

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Is it me, or do others agree that it's tacky to announce to anyone within earshot how much money someone has spent on an item? I have a friend who brags constantly about the amount she spends on clothing and other things. I also suspect that she inflates the actual figures most of the time. How would you respond to a statement such as, "This new shirt I bought cost me $200"?

NOT A SPENDTHRIFT IN BALTIMORE

DEAR NOT A SPENDTHRIFT: It depends upon how I wanted her to feel. If I wanted to make her feel guilty, I'd say, "Gee, that's the amount I just donated to the food bank." If I wanted her to feel envious, I'd tell her, "Really? I just put that amount in high-yield CDs." And if I wanted to make her miserable, I'd say, "It just went on sale at 70 percent off."

Or I could tell her the shirt is beautiful—but that wouldn't be as much fun.

DEAR ABBY: For the life of me, I cannot understand why being a single person seems to make some people uncomfortable. Occasionally, I really do want to do something by myself. If I say, "One for dinner," why would someone ask, "Are you by yourself?" If I purchase one ticket for a show, why would someone try to find "someone nice" for me to sit next to?

I am not a rude person, but this happens often. I am astonished at the number of times I am made to feel that I must provide some sort of explanation. Does this happen to single men as well as to women? All I want is to be treated with respect and not be made to feel as though I don't belong. Is there something I can say in these situations, or must I simply tolerate it?

SINGLE DINER IN HOUSTON

DEAR SINGLE DINER: The people who say these things and make these offers are well-meaning, and yes, it does happen to single men, too. The way to handle it is to smile sweetly and reply, "Thank you, but that won't be necessary."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 39 and a college graduate with plenty of common sense. I'm not stupid, yet throughout my life I have had trouble differentiating between left and right, east and west. Any explanation?

LOST IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR LOST: There is a name for your problem. It's "directional dyslexia," and intelligence level has nothing to do with it. Fortunately for you, cell phones can be outfitted with GPS devices to help you find your way.

And as to your difficulty differentiating between left and right, hold both hands in front of you with palms out and thumbs touching. Notice how the angle of your left hand forms an "L"? I hope this solves your problem.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please help me. Several years ago, my granddaughter—age 17—beat me up. It was awful. She beat me all over and broke my knee. I have forgiven her, but somehow it eats at me. What should I do? I will never forget that beating, which happened because I wouldn't let her drive my car.

GEORGIA GRANDMOTHER

DEAR GRANDMOTHER: May I be blunt? It's amazing that you were able to forgive your granddaughter for her unforgivable behavior. But forgiving does not mean that you should ever forget what happened to you. My advice is to keep your distance and never be alone with her because her impulse control is absent, and she could have killed you.

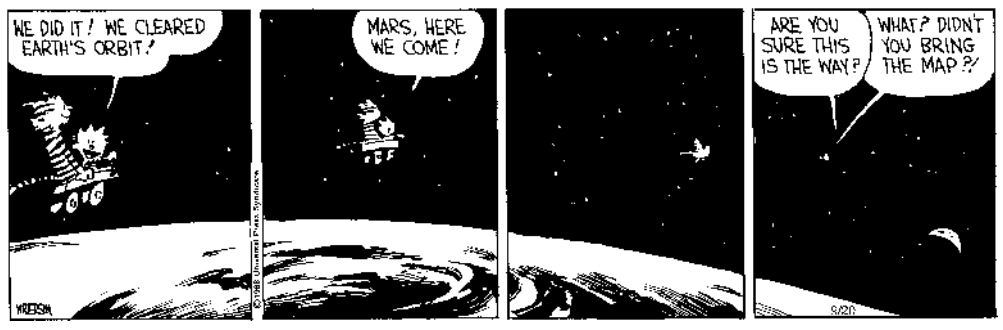
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

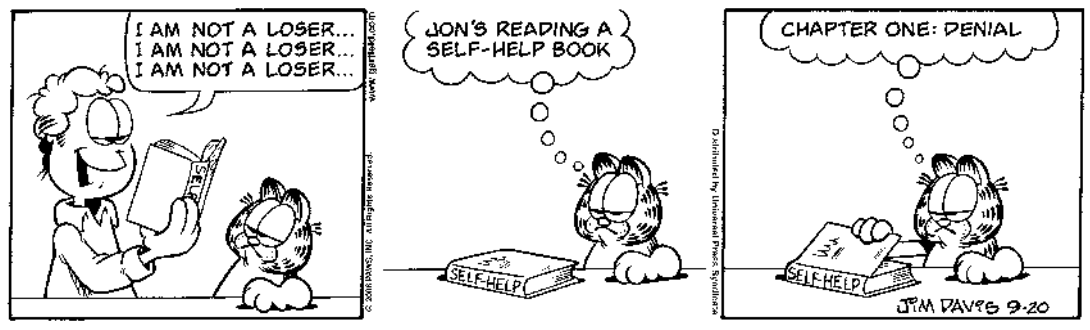
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



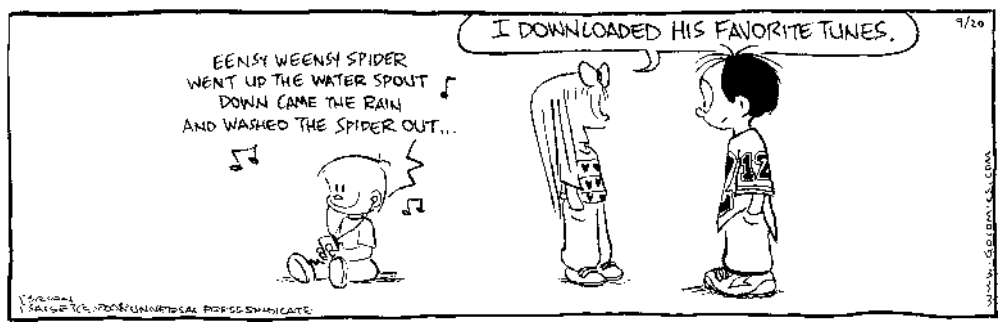
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



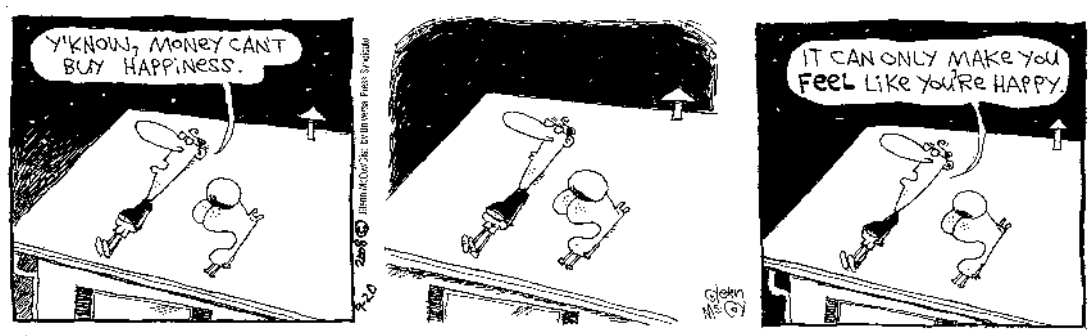
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I DOWNLOADED HIS FAVORITE TUNES.
9/20
EENSY WEENSY SPIDER WENT UP THE WATER SPOUT DOWN CAME THE RAIN AND WASHED THE SPIDER OUT...

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Draft in an apartment
6 Pleistocene period
12 Snatch money
13 One who isn't greedy
14 Brace
15 Highway blight
16 Bamako's country
17 Farmer, at times
19 Curvy character
20 Burn somewhat
22 Standard
24 Mag. staffers
27 Largest of the seven
29 Actor Neeson
32 Nail red-handed
35 Home of Oberlin
36 Dover —
37 Artesian article
38 Caustic solution
40 Check for proof of age
42 — out a living
44 Animation critter
46 Norway's capital
50 Relents
52 Candle fat
54 Happen to
55 Urge on
56 Sought out a J.P.
57 Deles' undoers

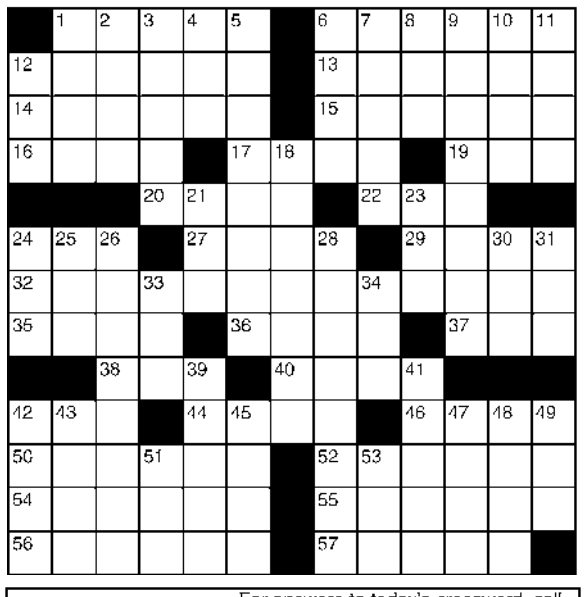
DOWN

1 Zhivago's love
2 Carbon compound
3 Jellied entree
4 Old French coin
5 Stress
6 Capri or Wight
7 Twitter
8 Corrode
9 Through street
10 The Bee —
11 Blunders
12 Spinning meas.
18 Venezuelan river
21 "Harrumph!"
23 Oktoberfest order
24 Green, in a sense
25 Doo follower
26 Heel type
28 Lost continent
30 Expert
31 Peaks (Abbr.)
33 Reluctant to commit
34 That girl
39 Debussy piece
41 Sweet (Ital.)
42 North Sea feeder
43 Carina
45 Newspaper pg.
47 Skirt feature, maybe
48 Oodles
49 Have bills
51 Try the tea
53 Pismire

Solution time: 27 mins.

C	A	B	■	S	H	C	O	■	B	A	A	S
A	N	Y	■	V	O	I	D	■	O	G	R	E
P	O	T	B	E	L	L	Y	■	R	O	M	E
O	N	E	A	L	L	■	S	P	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	T	Y	■	S	E	X	P	O	T
G	E	N	■	E	■	J	E	T	■	I	D	A
O	X	E	N	■	C	O	Y	■	S	K	I	N
O	P	S	■	L	O	G	■	C	H	E	E	K
P	O	T	P	I	E	■	D	I	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	E	R	■	I	R	I	S	E	S
A	Y	E	S	■	C	R	A	C	K	P	O	T
S	O	R	E	■	E	C	R	U	■	E	N	O
P	U	R	R	■	S	A	Y	S	■	E	S	P

Yesterday's answer 9-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Juan Pablo Montoya, 33; Kristen Johnston, 41; Sophia Loren, 74; Anne Meara, 79

Happy Birthday: Try not to let your emotions cloud your vision and lead you down the wrong path. Put everything you've got into one very important deal/project and you will be successful. Don't spread yourself too thin or offer too much to others. Be smart and put your own interests first. Your numbers are 3, 5, 13, 22, 36, 46, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do your thing and, before you know it, a partnership with someone special will develop. Your contributions will be admired and respected and will help motivate others to follow in your footsteps. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Getting involved with someone you work with will have its pros and cons. Stay within the confines of business rules and you can turn your desires into something workable, leading to an interesting new business venture. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do your best and a personal connection you have with someone will take a positive turn. Take time to talk about your plans. Once you know for sure you have someone you can count on, it will be easy to move forward. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't take chances with the ones you love or the things you cherish. Carefully choose the people you keep in your life and the ones you don't. It's time to weed out the bad seeds before moving on. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Pull in help from all walks of life. Present your beliefs and the cause you are dedicated to and others will join your quest. You will come up with a plan that will keep everyone you know talking for months and position you for leadership. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): If you keep changing your mind, no one will take you seriously. Take action first and, when you have finished, talk about it. You can stay on top but only if you don't give in to emotional outbursts. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't guess. Go to the source and ask questions before you make a decision. Your personal and financial success will come from well-thought-out plans and plenty of organization. This is not the time to cut corners. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep busy and work quietly on your own. As soon as you let others get involved, trouble will develop. Venture out to see how others do things but don't give away any information about your own plans. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Your emotions are likely to take over, leading to some very unforgiving statements. Turn your weekend into a whirlwind romance that will carve the way to a more captivating personal future. Don't let your ego stand in the way of making the right decision. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't be a follower. It isn't your nature, so why start now. If someone is enticing you to do something you wouldn't normally do, you have to question the relationship. Don't pay for someone else. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You have nothing to lose and everything to gain by incorporating someone into your plans. Home improvement projects will lift your spirits. You can get down to business regarding skills you want to acquire or a small business you want to start. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Shake off any irritating comments or aggressive action you receive. Unpredictable behavior will be costly financially and emotionally and will result in a lost friendship. Stop showing instability or a lack of control if you want to make gains. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, commanding, a great speaker and a fighter for justice and fair play. You can look at any situation and find ways to make it right.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8						6
		3	8		9	1	
	2			3			7	
	1						4	
		4				9		
	3						8	
	7			5			1	
		9	3		6	4		
6								2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	2	5	3	6	4	8	9	1
4	1	9	7	2	8	5	3	6
6	3	8	9	1	5	7	2	4
9	5	3	2	8	6	1	4	7
2	6	4	5	7	1	9	8	3
8	7	1	4	3	9	2	6	5
1	9	7	8	4	3	6	5	2
5	4	2	6	9	7	3	1	8
3	8	6	1	5	2	4	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RED INK Solution: 10 letters

K	N	I	S	T	M	D	A	M	A	G	E	D	R	S
L	W	O	L	S	B	I	N	N	U	M	B	E	R	S
S	L	S	V	Y	E	E	N	E	T	A	C	F	M	I
(H)	S	A	E	E	M	N	D	U	P	E	S	I	O	M
E	(S)	T	M	R	R	O	I	A	S	S	E	C	N	S
E	S	(A)	N	S	U	S	N	S	N	T	S	I	E	E
T	E	T	(C)	E	H	L	I	O	U	G	N	T	Y	I
E	L	L	S	I	M	O	I	G	C	B	E	S	T	T
S	H	U	S	O	N	T	R	A	H	E	P	R	P	I
P	T	A	T	G	C	E	S	T	F	T	X	O	U	L
A	R	F	N	E	P	E	H	E	F	I	E	L	R	I
L	O	I	R	O	S	R	I	C	V	A	S	O	K	B
L	W	R	R	S	E	R	R	O	R	N	L	C	N	A
O	O	T	O	A	S	E	M	O	C	N	I	L	A	I
C	S	L	T	N	A	T	N	U	O	C	C	A	B	L

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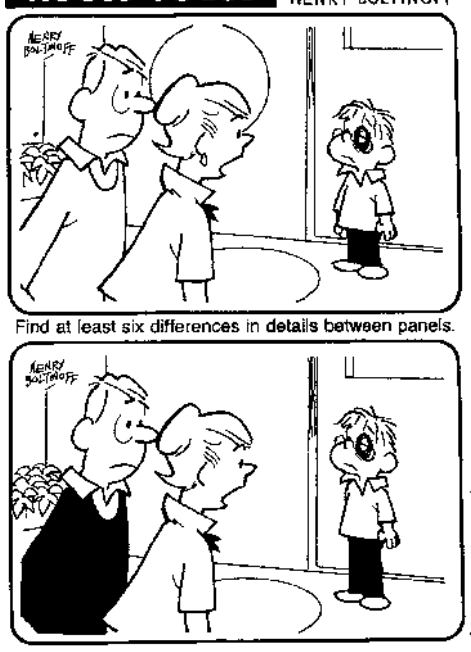
Accountant, Bankrupt, Business, Cash, Collapse, Colors, Corrections, Costs, Damage, Danger, Debt, Deficit, Economy, Error, Expenses, Failure, Fault, Fiscal, Income, Investments, Liabilities, Losses, Minus, Miss, Money, Numbers, Oversight, Owing, Recession, Reports, Sheet, Shortfall, Sink, Slow, Small, Spend, Threat, Worthless

Yesterday's Answer: Fromage

We reward you for your search: TREASURY chest (at least 4x4 letters) $1; 5 puzzles, any size, all different, $2; 10 different puzzles, any size, $3. Include check or money order (no stamps) payable to Puzzles by Mail, Ltd. Send to P.O. Box 1228, Mail Station 1, Saint John, NB E2L 4G8. Canada only. Offer void where prohibited. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. © Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6883. Order online at puzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Man's sweater is black. 2. Plant is taller. 3. Picture is missing. 4. Boy is taller. 5. Earring is missing. 6. Boy's right arm is hidden.

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Wishing Well®

7	4	6	8	4	2	3	7	5	7	3	2	8
S	C	N	S	O	F	A	T	B	A	G	R	P
7	6	3	6	5	4	7	6	7	8	3	4	8
T	E	R	W	E	R	U	A	S	R	I	R	E
7	3	6	4	7	5	6	5	7	8	6	3	4
C	N	M	E	H	C	I	O	A	A	A	T	C
2	3	7	5	6	7	8	6	5	7	4	7	2
E	O	N	N	B	G	D	L	T	E	T	S	S
4	2	5	3	5	3	4	6	2	3	4	5	2
M	H	E	D	N	A	I	E	C	Y	S	T	H
5	8	5	8	2	4	6	2	4	8	2	6	2
E	C	D	H	O	T	F	I	A	A	C	R	E
8	6	4	8	4	6	4	8	6	8	6	2	6
R	I	K	I	E	E	S	T	N	Y	D	S	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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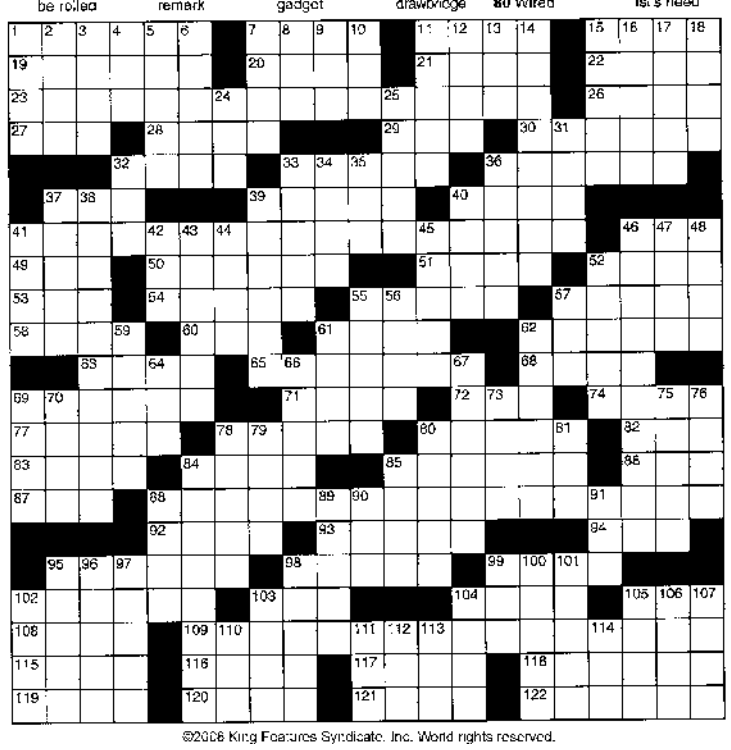
WHO NEEDS IT?

Super Crossword

ACROSS
1 Pay hike?
7 Chore
11 Stylistic pencil stuff
15 Predicament
19 Model Kim
20 Press
21 It's a long story
22 "Inter – "
23 Start of a remark
26 Fluff the flour
27 Mr. Hammarskjold
28 Composer Satie
29 Majors or Marvin
30 Layers
32 Had kittens?
33 Postern and portcullis
36 Main squeeze
37 "– culpa"
39 Heavenly hunter
40 "I bet!"
41 Part 2 of remark
46 Faux —
49 Fireworks reaction
50 "— Boulevard" ('50 film)
51 They may be rolled
52 Billings or Mostel
53 Neighbor of Miss.
54 "— Blade" ('96 film)
55 Leans
57 It's taken by nurses
58 Sharp taste
60 Skater Midori
61 Wine choice
62 Nabokov novel
63 Kukla's colleague
65 Part 3 of remark
68 Fail to mention
69 Tedious
71 Subs or Shepard
72 Boathouse item
74 Objectives
77 Take on
78 Pack of partridges
80 Like many gyms
82 Cornfield cry
83 Calcium oxide
84 Non-stereo
85 Peaceful
86 Chemist Remsen
87 Singer Joey
88 Part 4 of remark
92 Heady quaffs
93 Respond to an alarm?
94 "Ask — Girl" ('59 film)
95 Pop's neckwear
98 Marsh bird
99 Facts, for short
102 Georgia athletes
103 Brit. fliers
104 Way to go?
105 Clean-air org.
108 Serenade accompaniment
109 End of remark
115 Fragrance
116 Peace of mind
117 "My word!"
118 Swimmer Gertrude
119 "Circus Boy" prop
120 Prophet
121 Lorre role
122 Triangular sail

DOWN
1 Spoke out
2 — Romeo
3 — shui
4 Medieval weapon
5 Kitchen gadget
6 Grenoble's river
7 Walrus weapon
8 Meyers of "Kate & Allie"
9 NCO
10 It may be major
11 Fatheads
12 — bloomer
13 "Yuck!"
14 Mehta and Muti
15 Iraqi city
16 Homeric work
17 Coo
18 Base stuff?
24 Bream of baseball
25 Actress Graff
31 "— Angel" ('60 smash)
32 "Pshaw!"
33 "Peer Gynt" composer
34 Non-standard contraction
35 "Mazel —!"
36 Fills the bill
37 Dough
38 Wharton work
39 "Smilla's Sense —" ('97 film)
40 Actuary's fig.
41 Ditch under a drawbridge
42 Road curve
43 Decree
44 Step — (hurry)
45 Nick of "The Deep"
46 Party animal?
47 Guy Fr.
48 Queens stadium
52 Raul of "The Addams Family"
55 At present
56 Rock's — Butterfly
57 Petite pooch
59 Bellyache
61 Journalist Ernie
62 Mime Yarnell
64 Picnic crasher?
66 Devastation
67 Fashionable event
69 Like Mussorgsky's mountain
70 Garfield's pal
73 Actor Guinness
75 Tie the knot
76 Fluctuate
78 Telescope view
79 Responsibility
80 Wired
81 — Plaines, IL
84 Exemplar of slowness
85 Cut cuticles
88 Cut coupons
89 "84 Charing Cross Road" author
90 Psychic Geller
91 — Paulo, Brazil
95 Uncouth
96 Boca —, FL
97 Ward off
98 Morley of "60 Minutes"
99 Charged atom
100 Puzo product
101 Singer Payne
102 Ink stain
103 Trick
104 Carthaginian queen
105 Raison d'—
106 Soccer superstar
107 Midwestern gulf
110 — kwon do
111 Jewel
112 Inflatable item?
113 Use a shuttle
114 Lepidopterist's need



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby oyster called?
2. HISTORY: Which planet did William Herschel discover in 1781?
3. ENTERTAINERS: What was Stevie Wonder's birth name?
4. GAMES: What is a "dead man's hand" in poker?
5. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide"?
6. COMICS: What is the emblem on Wonder Woman's tiara?
7. ADVERTISEMENTS: Which brew labeled itself as the "champagne" of bottled beer?
8. TELEVISION: What was the name of the youngest daughter on "The Cosby Show"?
9. MOVIES: In the Austin Powers movie series, who plays the role of Frau Farbissina?
10. SCIENCE: What part of the atmosphere is the closest to the Earth's surface?

Answers

1. A spat
2. Uranus
3. Stevland Hardaway Judkins
4. Pairs of black aces and eights
5. Ralph Waldo Emerson
6. A red star
7. Miller
8. Rudy
9. Mindy Sterling
10. The troposphere

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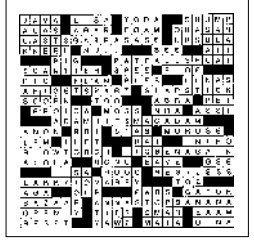
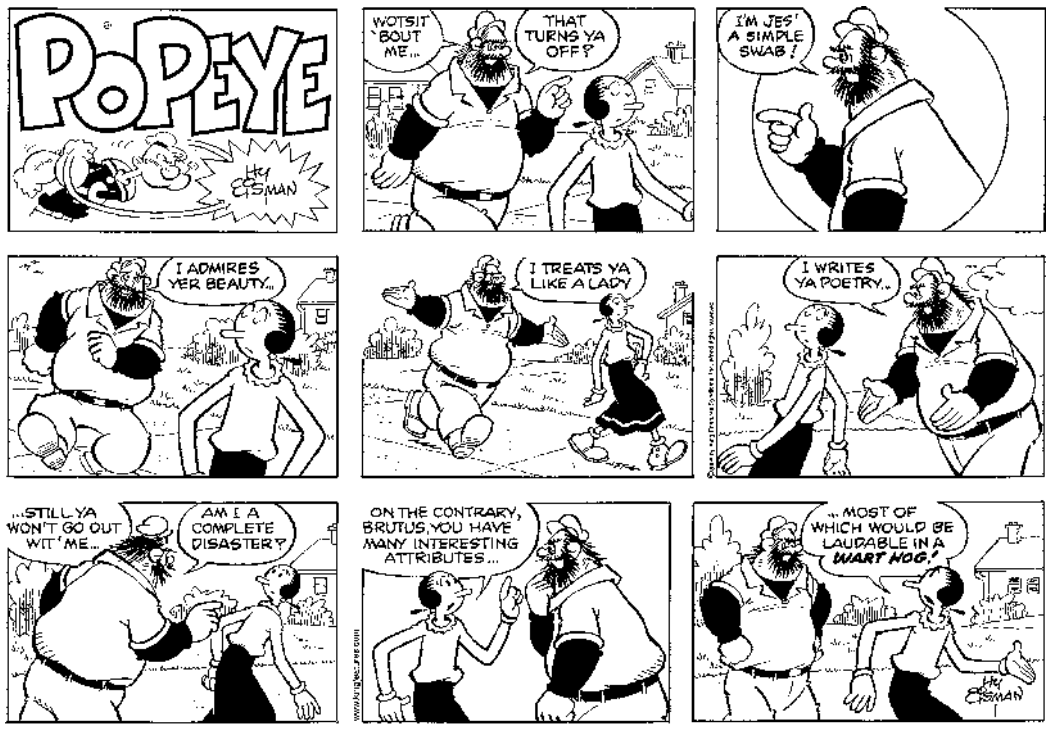
Saturday's Answers



POPEYE


HEY EISMAN
WOTSIT 'BOUT ME...
THAT TURNS YA OFF?
I'M JES' A SIMPLE SWAB!
I ADMIRES YER BEAUTY..
I TREATS YA LIKE A LADY
I WRITES YA POETRY..
...STILL YA WON'T GO OUT WIT' ME...
AM I A COMPLETE DISASTER?
ON THE CONTRARY, BRUTUS, YOU HAVE MANY INTERESTING ATTRIBUTES...
...MOST OF WHICH WOULD BE LAUDABLE IN A WART HOG!
HEY EISMAN

Amber Waves

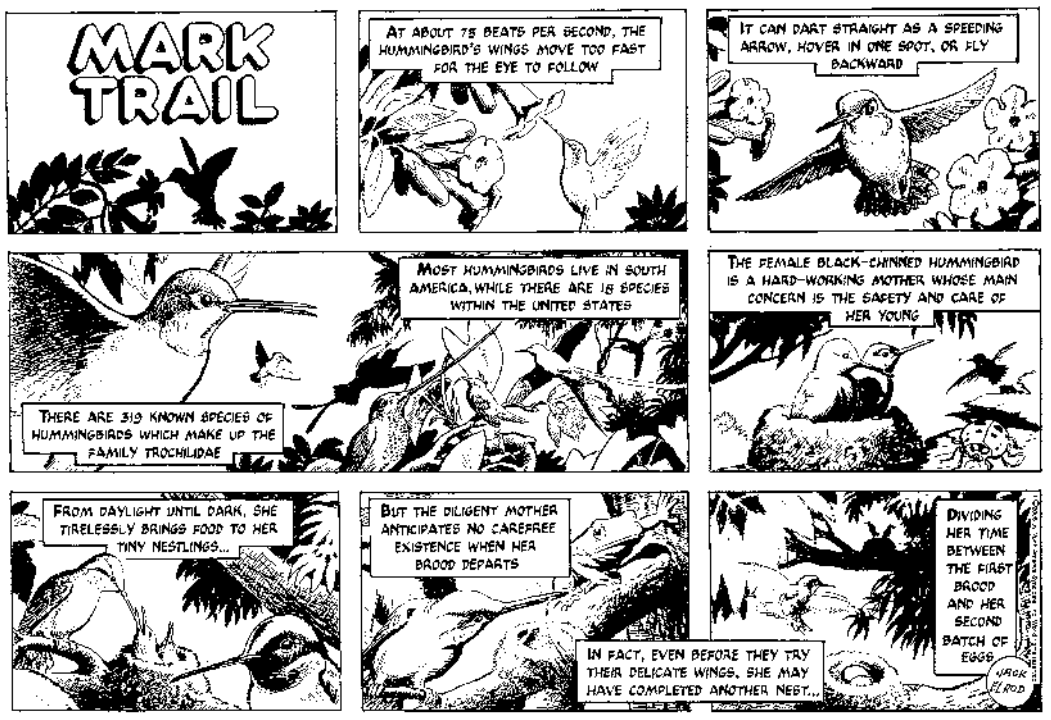
by Dave T. Phipps

WELL SON, AN ADVANTAGE OF LIVING IN THE COUNTRY IS "SKINNY DIPPING."
THERE'S NO ONE AROUND FOR MILES. WE CAN DO AS WE PLEASE.
AHH...NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT. WE CAN JUST BE ONE WITH NATURE.
WHAT?
I THINK I'M GONNA BE SICK.

The Spats

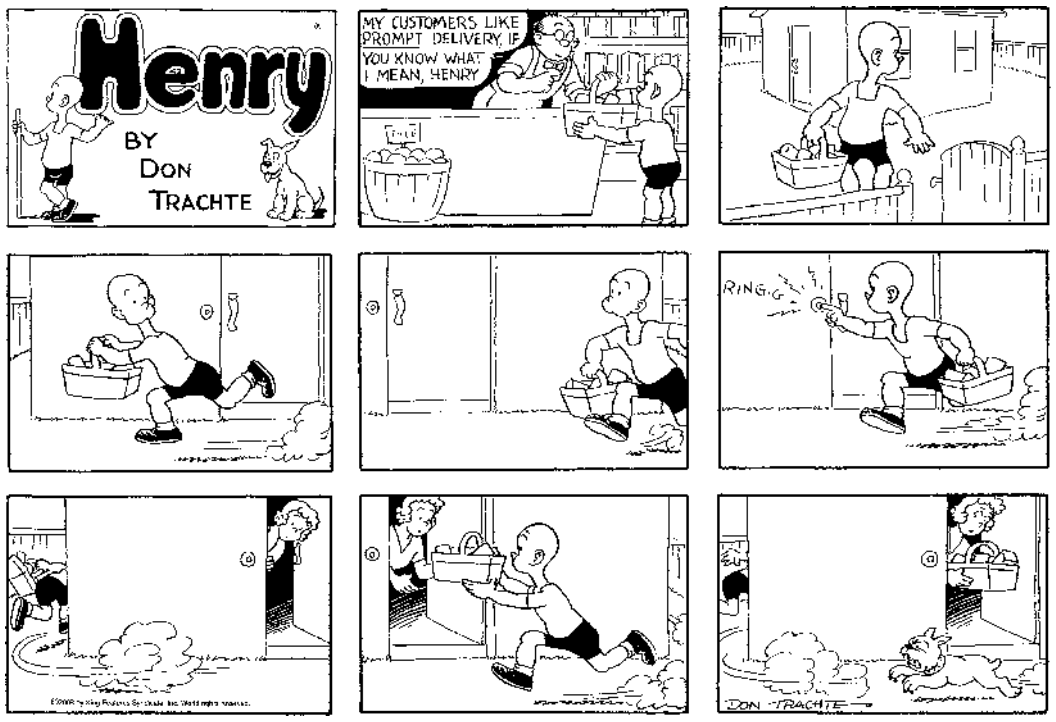
by Jeff Pickering

MARK TRAIL


AT ABOUT 75 BEATS PER SECOND, THE HUMMINGBIRD'S WINGS MOVE TOO FAST FOR THE EYE TO FOLLOW
IT CAN DART STRAIGHT AS A SPEEDING ARROW, HOVER IN ONE SPOT, OR FLY BACKWARD
MOST HUMMINGBIRDS LIVE IN SOUTH AMERICA, WHILE THERE ARE 18 SPECIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES
THERE ARE 319 KNOWN SPECIES OF HUMMINGBIRDS WHICH MAKE UP THE FAMILY TROCHILIDAE
THE FEMALE BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD IS A HARD-WORKING MOTHER WHOSE MAIN CONCERN IS THE SAFETY AND CARE OF HER YOUNG
FROM DAYLIGHT UNTIL DARK, SHE TIRELESSLY BRINGS FOOD TO HER TINY NESTLINGS...
BUT THE DILIGENT MOTHER ANTICIPATES NO CAREFREE EXISTENCE WHEN HER BROOD DEPARTS
IN FACT, EVEN BEFORE THEY TRY THEIR DELICATE WINGS, SHE MAY HAVE COMPLETED ANOTHER NEST...
DIVIDING HER TIME BETWEEN THE FIRST BROOD AND HER SECOND BATCH OF EGGS
MARK ELROD

Henry

BY DON TRACHTE



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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR: KEDEN MATHEW GHATILYOUNG WOL ILO, Minor Child; by INOCENCIO I. ILO and MARIA W. ILO, Petitioners	FCD CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0561; ORDER SHORTENING TIME AND NOTICE OF HEARING

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, It is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearin for Petitioner(s) petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on September 25, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2008.

/s/ By: Judge

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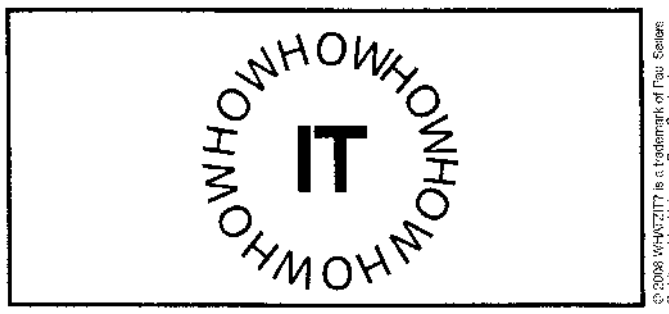

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235- NEWS

Preparations in place, now it's time to play—and putt

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP)—A day before the start of the Ryder Cup, U.S. captain Paul Azinger acknowledged some nerves for the first time all week at Valhalla.

Azinger has done all he can to stop Europe's recent dominance in the Ryder Cup. He overhauled the qualifying process to field the best team. He set the course up just like he wanted, with moderate rough that should yield lots of birdies. He tried to convince his players that the past—Europe has won three straight and five of the last six—means nothing.

"It's like drawing back a bow string," he said Thursday, motioning like an archer. "You pull it back for two years, and now you've got to let it fly. All you can do is hope you've got it pointed in the right direction."

He turned to Phil Mickelson and Anthony Kim to set the right course, choosing them for the opening foursomes match Friday morning against Europe's double major champion Padraig Harrington and Robert Karlsson.

"The whole team is anxious to play," Mickelson said. "Anthony and myself have been talking about this for some time. I love that we are able to get off in the first group and get out and hit the first shots because again, we've been wanting this day to come."

Azinger had toyed with pairing home town players Kenny Perry and J.B. Holmes in the opening match. Instead he put Perry in the final morning match with reliable Jim Furyk, but they face Europe's most formidable pair in Sergio Garcia and Lee Westwood. Garcia is 8-0 in foursomes, while Westwood is unbeaten in his past 10 team matches.

AP

United States team captain Paul Azinger, right, examines the Ryder Cup trophy with Phil Mickelson during a photo shoot with the United States team before their training rounds for the Ryder Cup at the Valhalla Golf Club, in Louisville, Ky., Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008.

"Sergio and I have played well together in the past and taken in a few points for the European cause, so we will be looking to do the same again tomorrow," Westwood said.

Justin Leonard, whose 45-foot putt at Brookline in 1999 gave the Americans their last victory, will play with Hunter Mahan against Henrik Stenson and Paul Casey, while Stewart Cink and Chad Campbell take on the English duo of Justin Rose and Ian Poulter.

The final practice day included an inspirational visit by Louisville native Muhammad Ali, who posed with both teams on opposite sides of the golf course. European captain Nick Faldo was so moved that his voice quivered and eyes glistened when talking about meeting the heavyweight champ.

"An incredible moment," he said.

The Americans have not led after any session on any day at the Ryder Cup since winning at Brookline. And they have not led after the opening session of four matches since 1991.

"We have six rookies on the team, which is a good thing," said Steve Stricker, one of those rookies at age 41. "We haven't experienced some of those defeats in the previous years. And it's important that we do get off to a good start to gain some momentum and just roll from there. It's a long competition. There's five rounds. So if you do get behind, there's plenty of time to make it up."

Friday and Saturday feature four matches of foursomes (alternate shot) and four matches of fourballs (better ball), with the Ryder Cup concluding Sunday with 12 singles matches.

Of the 28 points available, Europe as defending champion only needs 14 to retain the cup.

The Americans will be without Tiger Woods, the No. 1 player in the world with 14 majors and 75 victories worldwide, although the U.S. could not win even when he did play.

"It's one of the few events we've been to where Tiger really has not been mentioned at all," Faldo said. "The Ryder Cup is bigger than any one player. We play for points. Tiger has not crossed my mind this week."

Faldo's pairings were no surprise. A photographer captured them with his zoom lens when Faldo whipped out his notepad during Wednesday practice.

The only secret to the Ryder Cup, just like most any other tournament, is making putts, and Europe has excelled.

"The guys have been on good form," Faldo said. "We know golf. We understand golf. We start back at level ground with America, and we will do our utmost to move forward. That's really it."

Faldo is the most celebrated European player in Ryder Cup history, having set records for most teams (11) and most points (25). Unlike previous captains, however, he has been somewhat of an outcast since he last played the Ryder Cup in 1997 at Valderrama.

Mark James famously trashed Faldo's good-luck note in 1999, and has been missing from European camaraderie the last three matches, getting no closer than the broadcast booth.

But he has four rookies who know only the Faldo that won six majors, not the aloof player with singular drive to the top. And typical of most European teams, this is a happy bunch full of laughter and purpose.

"I'm loving every minute of this," Faldo said. "This really is the best experience I've ever had as a non-player, inside and outside the ropes. This is the most special week of my life right now, and we haven't even started yet."

Twins get five runs in ninth inning to beat Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—The Minnesota Twins piled on five runs in the ninth inning to rally for an 11-8 win over the Tampa Bay Rays on Thursday, closing on leadership of the American League Central division.

The Twins moved within 1-1/2 games of Chicago, while the Rays saw their lead in the AL East sliced to the same margin over Boston.

Evan Longoria hit three home runs for Tampa Bay, the first of which contributed to a five-run first inning.

He added solo shots in the fourth and seventh, appearing to have keyed another Rays victory, but the Twins came roaring back.Alexi Casilla hit a two-run homer that tied the game 8-8 and set Minnesota's winning rally.

Yankees 9, White Sox 2

In New York, stumbling Chicago fell to defeat at out-of-contention New York.

With 10 games to play, the White Sox are coming under sustained pressure from Minnesota in their divisional race, which will likely be decided by their three-game series next week.

Bobby Abreu homered twice for the Yankees and drove in six runs, while starter Mike Mussina kept up his hopes for a 20-win season. Mussina earned his 18th victory of the season for his 268th career win, tying Hall of Famer Jim Palmer for 33rd on the career list. He gave up just one run in six-plus innings.

Angels 6, Athletics 4

In Oakland, California, Los Angeles hit three consecutive homers in a span of just four pitches in the seventh inning, sinking Oakland.

Kendry Morales, Mike Napoli and Brandon Wood all connected off Keith Foulke to record the Angels' first instance of three straight homers since 2004.

The A's failed in their bid for a season-best five straight victories. Oakland was held scoreless until the final inning, when it loaded the bases with no outs. Four runs came against one out, but the final two batters were retired.

Blue Jays 3, Orioles 2

In Toronto, pinch-hitter Gregg Zaun doubled home the tying and go-ahead runs in the sixth inning as Toronto edged Baltimore.

The last-place Orioles have lost 19 of 22 games and dropped their past nine series. Baltimore is 2-17 in its past 19 one-run games.

Jose Bautista homered for the Blue Jays.

Royals 12, Mariners 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, the home team completed its first four-game sweep of Seattle for 19 years.

Starter Zack Greinke combined with two relievers on a three-hitter and Mike Aviles hit a three-run homer.

The Royals led 9-0 after four innings, setting up what was the Royals first four-game sweep of any opponent for three years.

Kansas City's seven successive wins is its longest streak since winning its first nine games in the 2003 season.

Cubs 7, Brewers 6

In Chicago, a tying three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning set up the Chicago Cubs' dramatic win over the Milwaukee Brewers, putting them closer to clinching the National League Central division.

Geovany Soto hit the tying long-shot, and Derrek Lee singled in the winning run in the 12th inning, putting the Cubs 9 games ahead of the Brewers with only 11 games to play.

Milwaukee's form slump and this crushing defeat had left them 1-1/2 games behind wildcard holder New York.

The Brewers took a 6-2 lead into the bottom of the ninth before Chicago staged an improbable four-run rally with two outs.

Phillies 4, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Philadelphia edged Atlanta to complete an unpredented road sweep of the Braves and maintain its lead in the NL East.

The Phillies stayed half a game ahead of New York in the East and moved 2 games above potential wildcard rival Milwaukee.

Pat Burrell hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the sixth inning for Philadelphia, which has won seven straight games and became the first team to sweep a season series longer than four games in Atlanta, taking all nine.

Dodgers 4, Pirates 3, 12 innings

In Pittsburgh, Los Angeles scraped past Pittsburgh to maintain its buffer atop the NL West.

The Dodgers got 11 walks for the game, and loaded the bases in the 12th on the last of them. James Loney then hit a line-drive single to score the go-ahead run in the 12th inning.

The Dodgers withstood two Pittsburgh comebacks for their 15th victory in 18 games and stayed 3-1/2 games ahead of Arizona in the NL West with nine to play.

The Pirates got the potential tying run to third base in the bottom of the 12th but could not get him home.

Mets 7, Nationals 2

In Washington, New York comfortably beat Washington to keep pace with its rivals in a highwire playoff race.

The Mets stretched their lead in the wildcard race to 1-1/2 games and stayed only half a game behind Philadelphia in the NL East.

Mets starter Johan Santana took a shutout into the seventh inning, and improved to 7-0 with a 2.26 ERA in his past 14 starts.

Brian Schneider went deep twice for his first multihomer game since 2003.

Diamondbacks 3, Giants 2

In Phoenix, Arizona edged San Francisco to keep a pulse in their playoff hopes.

Adam Dunn's two-out single in the eighth inning drove in the deciding run for the Diamondbacks, who stayed 3-1/2 games off Los Angeles in the NL West.

San Francisco starter Tim Lincecum lost for the first time in two months. He allowed three runs in his second straight complete game and second of his career.

Marlins 8, Astros 1

In Miami, Florida cruised past Houston to keep alive its slim playoff hopes.

John Baker drove in four runs and scored two for the Marlins, who notched their eighth straight win to remain five games behind wildcard holder New York with 10 games to play.

Houston is tied with the Marlins in the wildcard race.

The Astros have struggled since Hurricane Ike hit the Gulf Coast. The Astros had won six straight and 14 of 15 before the storm, but have since dropped five straight.

Cardinals 5, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, St. Louis snapped a season-high seven-game losing skid by pipping Cincinnati.

Albert Pujols hit a three-run homer for the Cardinals.

St. Louis starter Kyle Lohse won his first start since coming off a suspension for throwing at the head of a batter. His 14th win of the season matched his career best.

Fallout continues over ref's bad call in Denver

NEW YORK (AP)—The fallout continues over NFL referee Ed Hochuli's game-deciding mistake in Denver last Sunday.

Mike Pereira, the NFL's supervisor of officials, said on his NFL Network show Wednesday night that he has talked several times to Hochuli and the referee remains devastated. And the San Diego Union-Tribune reported that Hochuli, an official for 19 seasons and a referee for 17, had e-mailed fans in San Diego and told them, "I failed miserably."

The call came in the final minute with Denver having a second down at the San Diego 1 and the Chargers leading 38-31. Denver quarterback Jay Cutler dropped back to pass, the ball slipped from his hand and a San Diego player recovered. But Hochuli, who has refereed two Super Bowls and is the league's most visible official, ruled it an incomplete pass.

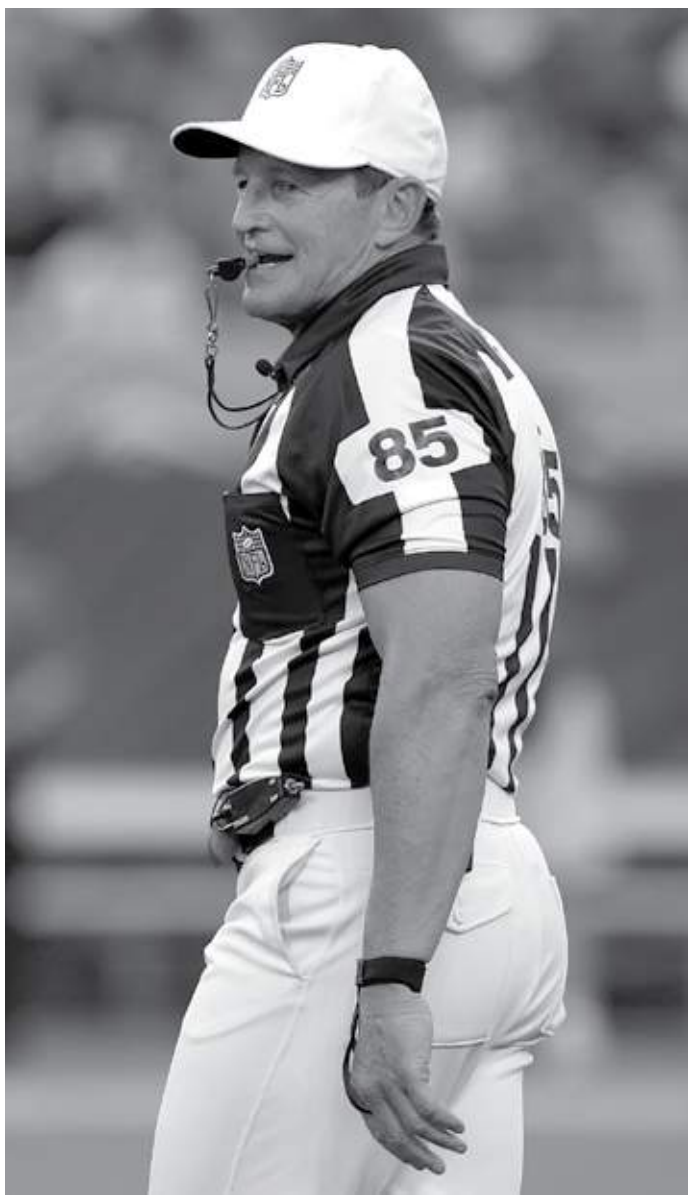
Instant replay showed the call should have been a fumble, but Denver retained the ball at the 10 because under the rules, the ball could not go to San Diego because the whistle had blown when the play was ruled a pass.

Hochuli told Chargers coach Norv Turner he made the wrong call. Then the Broncos went on to score, converted a 2-point conversion, and won 39-38.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said Thursday he expected the league's competition committee would review the rule that possession could not change because the whistle blew during the offseason, as it has in the past.

"We all understand the frustration of the fans, in this case, the Chargers fans," Goodell told The Associated Press before accepting an award on behalf of the NFL from the International Radio and Television Society Foundation.

"Mistakes are a part of our game. We do everything we can to avoid them, but Ed's a fantastic official, and he'll continue to be a great official."



AP

This Aug. 11, 2006 file photo shows NFL referee Ed Hochuli during an NFL preseason football game between the New York Jets and Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Tampa, Fla.

Pereira said on his weekly NFL Network show that he's tried to be as supportive as he can to Hochuli, "but he's devastated—as he should be."

"He is a consummate professional who's refereed in this league for 17 years and he hates to make any mistake," Pereira said. "So when you add a mistake of this magnitude, at this particular junction of the game, it's been really hard on him. We've talked probably seven or eight times since that game, and my whole goal is to try to get him back to get on the horse and work again this weekend. He's too good of a guy, too good of an official to keep off the field over this critical mistake he made. I think he'll be all right, but he's really been affected over this mistake he made."

According to the Union-Tribune, Hochuli wrote to several San Diego fans: "Officials strive for perfection—I failed miserably."

Hochuli did not return repeated calls and e-mails from The Associated Press.

On the Web site http://www.NFL85.com, his son, Scott, reported in a section named "Everything Ed," that his father had received many letters of support from fans.

"I am very humbled by the number of people who have come to my defense. Very humbled, indeed," the site reported Ed Hochuli as saying.

Pereira said the rules need to be further examined.

"I think we have to take a step backwards first and look at what we did in 2007 when we brought down by contact into a reviewable situation," he said. "We allowed players to play through the whistle at that point to a recovery of a fumble. We need to look and see if that has been successful, which I believe it has been.

"Now what we really need to do is see if we can take it beyond that, considering this play that happened on Sunday. Can we take it beyond that to the ruling of an incomplete pass and stretch it to the ball actually being recovered by the defender, as the Chargers did here, if in fact it was a fumble? ... But the question is can you extend it here to at least make the right ruling on the field? You would at least be doing partially the right thing, giving the ball to San Diego, although you can't advance the ball.

"Obviously, we're going to look at it because it was such a big play and we have had some success before with the down by contact rule. We'll take a long look at it, I'm sure."

Goodell said that in the past, the competition committee made a distinction between down by contact plays and situations like the one that occurred Sunday.

Hamstring keeps Adrian Peterson out of practice

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Minnesota's sputtering offense could be without its biggest star against Carolina on Sunday.

Running back Adrian Peterson, the NFL's leading rusher and the 2007 offensive rookie of the year, missed practice on Thursday with a hamstring injury. Peterson said he is hopeful he can play against the Panthers, but he took a step back one day after participating in practice on a limited basis.

"It's a concern," coach Brad Childress said. "Your legs are your legs. We'll just see how he comes out by the time we get to Sunday."

Before practice began, Peterson told reporters that he injured the hamstring late in last weekend's 18-15 loss to the Indianapolis Colts. Peterson rushed for 160 yards in the game and has 263 yards on the season, 1 yard ahead of Atlanta's Michael Turner for the league lead.

But the offense failed to score a touchdown in that game, settling for five field goals by Ryan Longwell to fall to 0-2.

"It was tough. What upset me the most is we just couldn't get into the end zone as a group," Peterson said. "The whole game I'm sitting there saying, it could come back and bite us. Peyton Manning on the other side of the ball can get hot any time. That's what happened. I was really upset."

Peterson did not specify which leg was injured, only saying that it was "pretty sore" and had him worried when it tightened up while he was pushing the pile in the fourth quarter.

"This is how we get our work done. Our legs," Peterson said. "That's the most important part of our body, so it was pretty scary."

It was so bad during the game that when Childress asked Peterson if he could return a kick to try and give the team better field position, he had to decline.

"I wasn't able to go out and give it 100 percent," he said.

If he cannot play on Sunday, backup Chester Taylor will get the bulk of the carries. Taylor was the starting running back in Minnesota in 2006, when he rushed for 1,216 yards and six touchdowns.

Taylor was demoted to backup early in Peterson's rookie year last season, but filled in brilliantly when he went down with a knee injury at Green Bay.

The next week, Taylor rushed for 164 yards and three touchdowns in a victory over Oakland, then added 77 yards and a score in a win over the Giants. He finished the season with 844 yards and seven touchdowns in 14 games.

Receiver Sidney Rice missed his second straight day of practice with a sprained right knee and receivers Aundrae Allison (foot) and Bernard Berrian (toe) were also limited in practice Thursday.

NBA BRIEFS

NBA fines Heat's Beasley $50,000

NEW YORK (AP)—Miami Heat rookie Michael Beasley was fined $50,000 by the NBA on Thursday for his involvement in an incident at the Rookie Transition Program this month. The NBA also said that Beasley failed to cooperate with the a league investigation of the matter also involving Miami's Mario Chalmers and Memphis' Darrell Arthur. Arthur and Chalmers, former Kansas teammates, were fined $20,000 apiece last week after being banished from the rookie symposium. Security at the resort near New York where the event took place found Arthur and Chalmers in a room with two women, and the scent of marijuana was detected. No drugs or drug paraphernalia were found, but having guests in the room violated NBA policy, and the two rookies were sent home. Arthur and Chalmers apologized but denied using marijuana.

Star Spangled mess: Mavs' Howard insults anthem

DALLAS (AP)—The battered reputation of Josh Howard took another hit this week when an online video surfaced showing the Dallas Mavericks forward disrespecting the national anthem. In a video posted on YouTube, Howard is shown on a football field at a charity flag football game. As the national anthem plays in the background, Howard approaches a camera and says: "'The Star Spangled Banner' is going on right now. I don't even celebrate that (expletive). I'm black." Howard's agent, Jeff Schwartz, did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment. Donnie Nelson, the Mavericks' president of basketball operations, directed questions to team owner Mark Cuban, who in an e-mail declined to comment. The incident is the latest off-court problem for Howard, a fifth-year pro from Wake Forest who averaged 19.9 points and seven rebounds last season. He was arrested in July when police said he was drag racing at 94 mph in a 55 zone. A court appearance was scheduled for next week. Howard was criticized last season for saying in a radio interview during a first-round playoff series against New Orleans that he occasionally smokes marijuana. Later that same series, he angered coach Avery Johnson by throwing himself a birthday bash after a Game 4 loss to the Hornets.

Celtics to meet Bush to celebrate championship

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Celtics will visit the White House to celebrate their 17th NBA championship with President Bush. The team will attend a ceremony Friday afternoon with the president. The Celtics plan to give him a personalized jersey and an autographed basketball. Boston beat the Los Angeles Lakers in six games in June to win its first championship in 22 years. On Thursday, fans lined up at the Connecticut state Capitol to see the championship trophy and former UConn star Ray Allen. Celtics guards Tony Allen and Rajon Rondo, team president Rich Gotham and former player JoJo White also were in attendance. The group shared the trophy with fans at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield earlier Thursday.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

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AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	90	61	.596	_
Boston	89	63	.586	1 1/2
New York	82	71	.536	9
Toronto	82	71	.536	9
Baltimore	67	84	.444	23

Central Division

Chicago	84	68	.553	_
Minnesota	83	70	.542	1 1/2
Cleveland	75	77	.493	9
Detroit	71	80	.470	12 1/2
Kansas City	69	84	.451	15 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	93	59	.612	_
Texas	75	78	.490	18 1/2
Oakland	71	81	.467	22
Seattle	57	95	.375	36

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	86	67	.562	_
New York	85	67	.559	1/2
Florida	80	72	.526	5 1/2
Atlanta	67	86	.438	19
Washington	58	95	.379	28

Central Division

Chicago	92	59	.609	_
Milwaukee	84	69	.549	9
Houston	80	72	.526	12 1/2
St. Louis	79	73	.520	13 1/2
Cincinnati	70	82	.461	22 1/2
Pittsburgh	64	89	.418	29

West Division

Los Angeles	80	73	.523	_
Arizona	76	76	.500	3 1/2
Colorado	70	83	.458	10
San Francisco	68	85	.444	12
San Diego	58	95	.379	22

Yesterday's Games

Kansas City 12, Seattle 0
L.A. Angels 6, Oakland 4
N.Y. Yankees 9, Chicago White Sox 2
Toronto 3, Baltimore 2
Minnesota 11, Tampa Bay 8
L.A. Dodgers 4, Pittsburgh 3, 12 innings
Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee 6, 12 innings
Florida 8, Houston 1
Philadelphia 4, Atlanta 3
N.Y. Mets 7, Washington 2
St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 4
Arizona 3, San Francisco 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	6	0
San Antonio Sixers	4	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	3	1
G-Stars	3	2
Rollers I	2	2
Kontenders	2	3
Suns	1	3
C.K. Saints	0	4
Rollers II	0	6

You can't stop the mighty John Blanco

By BRAD E. RUSZALA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It's been an eventful couple of weeks in the National Football League, that's for sure. Stars have fallen, nobodies have become somebodies, referees have made questionable calls (at best), one conservative coach went a little crazy and somehow the Bills are 2-0!

What's happening?

For starters, the New England Patriots haven't lost a beat since losing MVP Tom Brady in the season opener as Matt Cassel has proven to be as steady a backup quarterback as they come.

The kid who hadn't started a game since high school is undefeated thus far and shows no signs of slowing down in this week against the woeful Miami Dolphins. He has a pretty good chance of leading the Patriots to a 3-0 start before New England hits the bye week.

When the Pats come back from their break, Cassel gets another "warm-up" game against the San Francisco 49ers in Week 5 before getting his first taste of serious competition against the San Diego Chargers. That game should speak volumes about the post-season future of this year's boys from Beantown.

Coach Mike Shanahan's decision at the end of last week's game against the Chargers also spoke volumes about his faith in his offense. After scoring in the closing seconds of the game to pull to within one point, Denver's coach opted to play for the win with a two-point conversion instead of the "gimmie" extra point.

His gamble won and the Broncos improved to 2-0. That was something special. You just don't see that kind of play-calling in professional sports these days. Most coaches (and by most I mean every other coach) would have sent out the kicker and readied the team for overtime.

Not Shanahan. Overtime? What's overtime? To Shanny, it was just forestalling the inevitable. Maybe he had a hot date after the game. Maybe he just wanted to go home to catch the latest edition of *John Gonzales Live*. Either way, he made the call that made true fans of sport stand up and applaud.

Of course, if the Jay Cutler's pass sailed incomplete and the Broncos lost everyone would have called him crazy. Sports talk radio shows in the Mile High City would have been bombarded with "What was he thinking?" calls. Sure, I would've complimented Shanahan for his guts, but falling to 1-1 would still have been worse than remaining atop the AFC West.

The loss was a double-whammy for the Chargers. Two plays before, Cutler's "pass" hit the ground on the 10-yard line for what the replay officials later ruled to be a fumble. San Diego recovered the ball but head referee Ed Hocculi (one of the NFL best, if not THE best) blew his whistle prior to the recovery.

That meant that the Broncos maintained possession of the ball and got another chance at the end zone. The next play resulted in a Denver touchdown which was followed by the "call of all calls."

And the rest is history.

Local kudos are due for John Blanco, who won out for the second straight week. That's two cases of Miller Lite for John. I'm not sure how he plans on handling 48 bottles of amber waves, but I'm open to lending a hand. What are friends for, anyway?

MILLER LITE PIGSKIN
PICKS OF THE WEEK
WEEK 3
WEEK 3
NFL
HUNTER
BLANCO
NABORS
SMITH
BIG MAHI
RUSZALA
ATLANTA ATLANTA ATLANTA ATLANTA ATLANTA ATLANTA
BUFFALO BUFFALO BUFFALO BUFFALO BUFFALO BUFFALO
CHICAGO CHICAGO TAMPA BAY CHICAGO TAMPA BAY CHICAGO
MINNESOTA CAROLINA MINNESOTA MINNESOTA CAROLINA CAROLINA
NEW ENGLAND NEW ENGLAND NEW ENGLAND NEW ENGLAND NEW ENGLAND NEW ENGLAND
NY GIANTS NY GIANTS NY GIANTS NY GIANTS NY GIANTS NY GIANTS
TENNESSEE TENNESSEE TENNESSEE TENNESSEE TENNESSEE HOUSTON
WASHINGTON WASHINGTON WASHINGTON ARIZONA ARIZONA WASHINGTON
DENVER DENVER DENVER DENVER DENVER DENVER
SAN FRANCISCO SAN FRANCISCO SAN FRANCISCO SAN FRANCISCO DETROIT SAN FRANCISCO
SEATTLE SEATTLE SEATTLE SEATTLE SEATTLE SEATTLE
BALTIMORE BALTIMORE BALTIMORE BALTIMORE BALTIMORE BALTIMORE
INDIANAPOLIS INDIANAPOLIS INDIANAPOLIS INDIANAPOLIS INDIANAPOLIS INDIANAPOLIS
PHILADELPHIA PHILADELPHIA PHILADELPHIA PHILADELPHIA PITTSBURGH PHILADELPHIA
DALLAS DALLAS DALLAS GREEN BAY DALLAS DALLAS
SAN DIEGO SAN DIEGO SAN DIEGO SAN DIEGO NY JETS SAN DIEGO
GUARANTED PICK OF THE WEEK
DALLAS DENVER BALTIMORE SAN DIEGO SEATTLE NEW ENGLAND
QUOTE RECORD
11-4 9-6 9-6 9-6 9-6 9-6
OVERALL
22-19 19-12 19-12 18-13 16-15 20-11
My GPOTW once again has to go out to the Denver Broncos. After last week's win, Shanahan's confidence in the offense should charge them and lead them to another victory this week. Additionally, at 2-0, it is still early in the season and they will want to tack on the additional win to further establish that they're the team to beat and have a very potent offense with Jay Cutler at the wheel.
For this weekend's pick, I picked all the home teams to win with the exception of the Dallas @ Green Bay game. Dallas will win a close one over the Cheeseheads and will have Packer fans scratching there collective heads wondering why they let go of Brett Favre in the first place.
My LOCK for this week is headed out to the east coast all the way to Baltimore. The Ravens are facing many new challenges this year having to go with their rookie quarterback but its all about the "D" this week as they are at home against the Browns. Ravens 21 Browns 3!.
My lock for the week is the San Diego Chargers. I think they are a much better at the game than their record shows. Kind of like me!
My GPOTW is Seattle over St. Louis. Although Seattle is 0-2, they won't lose to the worst team in football. Seattle's defense will be all over Marc Bulger. St. Louis' defense is inexperienced and could use a little more talent. Seattle will use their passing game effectively and beat the Rams.
My Guaranteed Pick of the Week is that the New England Patriots are going to continue their success under inexperienced quarterback Matt Cassel. Sure, he's no Tom Brady—or Greg Brady, for that matter—but Cassel has a solid team all around him and that spells success for the Patriots over the miserable Miami Dolphins.

Hyatt Golf Classic to go on as scheduled

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rain or shine, the 2008 Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic will go on as scheduled, said tournament coordinator Yulia Camacho.

Intermittent rains yesterday threatened to spoil the fun for today's 13th edition of the annual event, which is for the benefit of the Make-A-Wish Foundation

Camacho said they have checked the weather bulletin from the Emergency Management Office and learned that it would just be cloudy but expect that there would be no rains to fall.

Over a hundred golfing enthusiasts have already registered as of yesterday.

Walk-in registration will be allowed starting at 6:30am at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman.

Tee off time is set at 7:30am.

The registration fee will be $95 for Club Elan or Club at the Hyatt members and $110 for non-members.

It would be a four-person scramble format and the double Peoria handicap system.

A dinner banquet is also scheduled at 6pm tonight for the awarding ceremony for the winners as well as the raffle of prizes.

Tee-off time for 13th Hyatt Golf Classic tomorrow

Organizers are anticipating a bigger number of participants. The average total number of players each year is between 120-140.

40

From Page 28

peleta said that before coming on Saipan, the Koala Wanderers would be in Korea and Japan, where they will participate in the IVV Olympiad.

Espeleta said that it would be the first IVV Olympiad to be held outside of Europe.

During their visit in 2006, the group signed an agreement with the local walking group that in essence called on both walking associations to keep each informed about the other's activities and help other walking association around the world promote walking, all in the spirit of international friendship.

SONICS

From Page 28

Southern Sonics 70 – Ajoste 15, Echon 13, Eclevia 11, Metran 8, Ecalnea 8, Salas 5, Masga 4, De La Cruz 3, Cajap 2, Galarse 2, Cadiang 2

G-Rollers I 50 – Matagolai 16, Teregoyo 13, Danas 10, Concepcion 7, Castro 4

Scores by halves: 30-16, 40-24.

WITHOUT

From Page 28

So what are the chances the American golfers can pull off the same kind of upset? The team still has great players including Phil Mickelson, ranked the No. 2 golfer in the world; Kenny Perry, who has won three tournaments this year; and Anthony Kim, 23, who won Tiger's tournament, the AT&T National, at Congressional Country Club this year.

Besides, as great a golfer as Tiger Woods is, he does not have a great Ryder Cup record (7 wins, 11 losses and 2 ties). And golf is not the kind of game that requires teamwork, like soccer. A golfer plays his or her own ball.

But the Europeans are pretty terrific. In the last 10 Ryder Cup tournaments, Europe won six times, the United States won three times and there was one tie. The European team is led by Padraig Harrington of Ireland, who won two of this year's major tournaments, the British Open and the PGA. Now that Tiger is on the sidelines, Harrington may be the best player around. The Europeans also have Sergio Garcia of Spain, whose career record in the Ryder Cup is 14 wins, 4 losses and 2 ties.

Still, the American golfers can win the Ryder Cup, even without Tiger. That is, if they play like the American women's soccer team.

You can't stop the mighty John Blanco

It's been an eventful couple of weeks in the National Football League, that's for sure. Stars have fallen, nobodies have become somebodies, referees have made questionable calls—at best.

27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Preparations in place, now it's time to play—and putt

A day before the start of the Ryder Cup, U.S. captain Paul Azinger acknowledged some nerves for the first time all week at Valhalla.

25

Sonics remain unscathed, drub G-Rollers I

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacesetter Southern Sonics posted one of their easiest victories to date and stretched their winning streak to six Thursday night in the ongoing Saipan Rotary Club 18-under Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Reliables Bryan Ajoste, Lawrence Echon, and Mike Eclevia scored in double digits to lead the Sonics to a lopsided 70-50 win over the G-Rollers I.

Ajoste finished the game with 15 points, Echon chipped in 13, and Eclevia added 11. Manny Matagolai and Don Teregoyo, meanwhile, led the G-Rollers I with 16 and 13 points, respectively.

It was complete domination for the Sonics right from the get-go and they established a 14-point lead at halftime, 30-16.

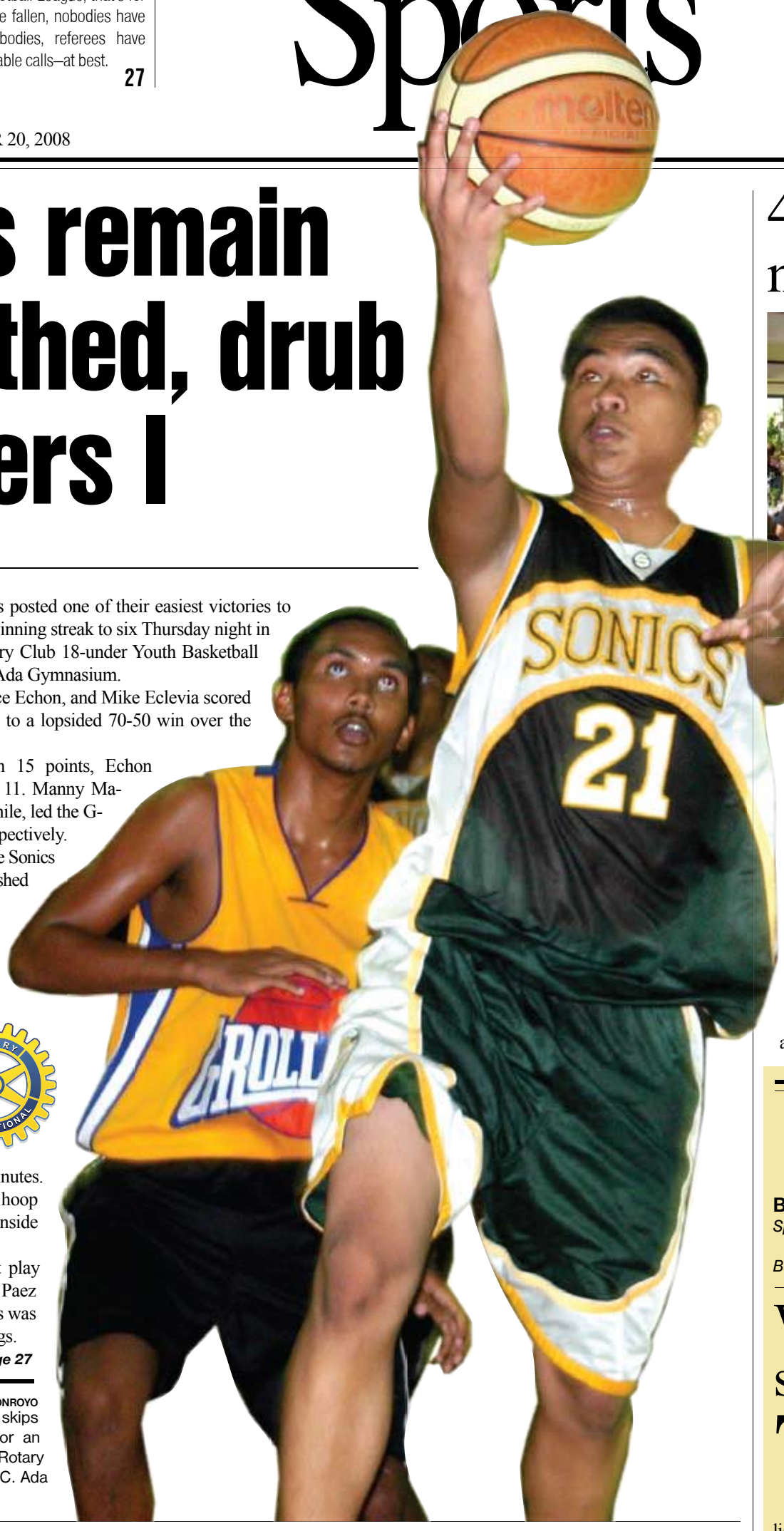
That gap was well protected in the second half as the Sonics had a 55-41 lead, the closest the G-Rollers I would come to the Sonics' lead with four minutes left to play.

Ecalnea and Ajoste also had the time to showboat in the game as the Sonics never let-up and built their biggest lead, 64-44, in the final two minutes.

Ecalnea powered his way to the hoop with a layup followed by another inside penetration by Ajoste.

Ecalnea competed a three-point play again as he fished a foul from Fredo Paez while driving to the basket. The loss was the G-Rollers' second in four outings.

See SONICS on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Southern Sonics' Bryan Ajoste skips past G-Rollers I's Don Teregeyo for an easy layup during their game in the Rotary caging Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

40 Germans to join next year's IVV Walk

MARK RABAGO
Saipan Walking Association, Inc. and Koala Wanderers International members pose for a photo after signing a partnership agreement in May 2006 at the Aqua Resort Club.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

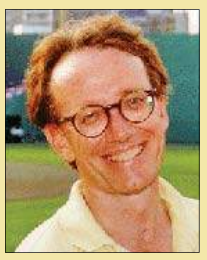
Some 40 members of Koala Wanderers International from Germany have signified their intention to come to the CNMI next year to join the IVV Walk on Saipan.

The group's manager Manfred Trettin and wife Eva along with three other friends visited the island in May 2005 for the World Walking Day organized by the Saipan Walking Association, Inc.

The group will be here from May 19 to 23 and will take part in the five- and 10-kilometer walk set on May 20. Aside from the usual tourist activities on Saipan, Trettin and his colleagues also want to go to Tinian by boat and possibly take part in a walking event there as well.

SAIWAI secretary Mario Es-

See 40 on Page 27



By FRED BOWEN
*Special to the*Washington Post

Bowen writes sports novels for kids.

Without Tiger, can US swing a Ryder victory

The Ryder Cup, the big international match between the best American and European professional golfers, begins Friday in Louisville, Ky. But Tiger Woods will not be playing for the United States.

Woods, who won the U.S. Open in June despite having a torn ligament in his left knee and two stress fractures in his left leg, is recovering from surgery. So the American team will see if it can beat the European team without the best player in the world.

Can the United States do it? Sure. Sometimes teams, whether kids or pros, have to play a game or match without their best player. The other team members can't just hang their heads and give up. They have to play harder and hope for the best.

Look at this year's U.S. women's Olympic soccer team. Abby Wambach, the team's high-scoring forward, broke her leg in the final exhibition match before the Summer Olympics and didn't play during the Beijing Games. Wambach is the Tiger Woods of American women's soccer. She has scored 99 goals in 127 international matches.

The U.S. women's team pulled together and won the gold medal. It wasn't easy. After losing its opening match to Norway, 2-0, the team regrouped and won four straight to face powerful Brazil in the gold-medal match. The United States persevered in the final and won 1-0 in extra time even though the Brazilians outplayed the Americans.

See WITHOUT on Page 27

Paire training, meeting reset for today

The Paire Football Club's training sessions and meeting scheduled last week will take place today at the San Vicente Elementary School Field.

Paire's practice and coaches meeting last Saturday were cancelled as mentors attended a one-day workshop conducted by John Whittle, acting director of Asian Football Confederation's Grassroots and Youth Program.

Becca Newman, one of the coaches of the club, said they will hold the training sessions this weekend to prepare players and coaches for the 2008 NMIFA Fall Youth Football League

The training session will run from 3:30pm to 5pm and coaches are encouraging players to bring shin guards and shoes for the practice. Donations of shin guards and shoes are also welcome.

The club also encouraged parents to join their children during the practice sessions or join Paire's coach/assistant coach pool.

A coaches meeting is set for 3pm before the training sessions start.

Paire will be fielding one team each in the five age groups. Players interested to be part of the club can join Paire's Under 6, Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, and Under 15 teams.

The club is looking for players from Teo, Papago, Kagman, Kannat Tabla, San Vicente, and Upper Dandan.

Registration fee is $25 for new players and $10 for returnees.

For more information, contact Paire secretary Frances Sablan via email at francinergs@yahoo.com.

Paire strikers will go up against players from MP United, Matansa, Independents.

This year's fall youth league will open shop on Sept. 27. The league will conclude its fall season with the 2008 Youth Football Festival in November.

The festival aims to provide players with the opportunity to play and enjoy games in a friendly competition environment, provide a platform for grassroots coach and referee education, and to encourage officials, coaches and players towards good sportsmanship, and a fair play code of behavior. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***